United Nations A/67/825

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 April 2013

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 13
2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/289 on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 66/289.

13-28251 (E) 170413

Please recycle

Report of the Director General of the World Health Organization

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 66/289. It provides a review of progress in the implementation of that resolution, focusing on the adoption and scaling-up of interventions recommended by the World Health Organization in 99 countries with ongoing malaria transmission and key challenges impeding progress, including a shortfall in financing for malaria control globally. It provides an assessment of progress towards the 2015 global malaria targets, including Millennium Development Goal 6, targets set through the African Union and the World Health Assembly and goals set through the Global Malaria Action Plan of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. It elaborates on the challenges limiting the full achievement of the targets and provides recommendations to ensure that progress is accelerated up to and beyond 2015.

I. Introduction

1. While malaria is an entirely preventable and treatable disease, ongoing transmission continues to affect 99 countries and territories around the world, inflicting a tremendous burden, especially on countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010, approximately 3.3 billion people were at risk of malaria globally and 219 million (154 million-289 million) cases are estimated to have occurred. The disease killed an estimated 660,000 (490,000-836,000) people, mostly children under 5 years of age in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a multipronged strategy to control and eliminate malaria, including vector control interventions, preventive therapies, universal diagnostic testing, treatment with quality-assured artemisinin-based combination therapies and strong malaria surveillance.

2. The present report highlights progress and challenges in the control and elimination of malaria in the context of General Assembly resolution 66/289. It draws on recent reports produced by WHO and on contributions made by the Office of the Special Envoy for Malaria, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. The analysis is based on data received from malaria-endemic countries and from a range of malaria control partners.

3. During the past decade, malaria received worldwide recognition as a priority global health issue and the global malaria landscape changed dramatically. A steep rise in international funding enabled malaria-endemic countries to vastly expand their malaria control operations. Owing to a concerted international effort to scale up interventions, an estimated 1.1 million lives were saved and the upward disease spiral was reversed.

4. Since 2001, the General Assembly has passed a resolution on malaria every year, focusing the world's attention on challenges faced by endemic countries, especially in Africa. Early in 2008, the Secretary-General called for universal coverage of at-risk populations with malaria interventions and appointed a special envoy for malaria to mobilize global support for action against the disease. In 2009, a coalition of African Heads of State and Government established the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, pledging to work together to end malaria deaths. In 2013, 49 African Member States were working together under the auspices of the Alliance. Malaria has also been at the forefront of the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General, covering the period 2012-2017, and has prominently featured in the "Every woman, every child" initiative, which aims to save the lives of 16 million women and children between 2010 and 2015.

5. In addition to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which has provided approximately 60 per cent of all international funding for malaria, substantial bilateral funding has been made available by the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. In addition, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, the World Bank, the International Drug Purchase Facility and the Governments of Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Monaco, Norway, the Russian Federation and Spain, among others, have also actively supported the global effort to control and eliminate the disease.

6. Although international funding increased substantially between 2004 and 2011, enabling the distribution of more than 400 million insecticide-treated nets and an expansion of diagnostic testing and treatment services, global funding targets to achieve universal coverage of malaria interventions have not been fully met. In recent years, the shortfall in international financing has slowed progress and increased the likelihood of resurgences and epidemics in areas in which the disease had previously been controlled. Malaria continues to affect the world's poorest countries, where millions of people continue to lack access to preventive interventions and health services providing quality-assured diagnostic testing and life-saving treatment.

Global goals and targets

7. The success of efforts to control and eliminate malaria is measured through progress towards a set of global goals and targets, which have been designed through intergovernmental processes or set in the context of global initiatives. There are four main sets of global malaria goals and targets for 2015: Millennium Development Goal 6; targets set through the African Union (the declaration and plan of action on the "Roll Back Malaria" initiative adopted at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Abuja on 24 and 25 April 2000); targets set through the World Health Assembly; and goals set by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership through the Global Malaria Action Plan. Additional regional and subregional targets for malaria control and elimination are not addressed herein.

8. Malaria prevention and control forms part of Millennium Development Goal 6, target 6.C: have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. Given that malaria accounted for 7 per cent of post-neonatal child deaths globally in 2010 and for 15 per cent of such deaths in Africa, it is also central to achieving Goal 4, target 4.A: reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate. Malaria control is also expected to contribute to the achievement of Goals 1-3, 5 and 8.

9. By adopting the Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria in Africa, and its plan of action, in April 2000, leaders of malaria-endemic countries in Africa committed themselves to halving malaria mortality by 2010, later extending the target to 2015. The Declaration also contained a commitment to reducing or waiving taxes and tariffs on imported antimalarial medicines, insecticide-treated bednets and other essential malaria commodities. In 2006, the Declaration was complemented by the Abuja call for accelerated action towards universal access to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria services in Africa.

10. In 2005, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution in which it set a target of reducing the malaria burden by 50 per cent by 2010 and by 75 per cent between 2000 and 2015. In 2007, the Assembly passed another resolution in which it instituted World Malaria Day on 25 April every year, the day on which African Union countries have commemorated Africa Malaria Control Day since 2001. The Assembly also called upon member States to halt the provision of oral artemisinin-based monotherapies. In its resolution on malaria adopted in 2011, the Assembly reiterated the importance of taking a comprehensive set of actions to ensure achievement of the 2015 targets and called for increased efforts to control emerging resistance to antimalarial drugs and insecticides. It also called upon member States

to keep malaria high on political and development agendas and to undertake strategic reviews of national malaria programmes to optimize national responses.

11. Under the umbrella of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, endemic countries, organizations of the United Nations system, bilateral donors, public-private partnerships, scientific organizations, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are working together to scale up WHO-recommended interventions, improve strategic planning and malaria programme management and seek to ensure that predictable and adequate funding is in place for malaria control. The Global Malaria Action Plan, released in 2008, was developed collectively to accelerate the global multi-stakeholder effort to control and eliminate the disease. Its objectives and targets were revised in 2011.

II. Current situation

12. While falling short of the estimated $5.1 billion required annually to achieve universal coverage of malaria interventions around the world, the financing provided between 2000 and 2010 for malaria control has enabled endemic countries to greatly increase access to preventive interventions and diagnostic and treatment services, allowing them to reduce the estimated global malaria mortality rate by more than 25 per cent globally and by 33 per cent in the WHO African region during the same period.

13. The disease continues to inflict a heavy burden on sub-Saharan African countries, however, leading to tragic loss of life and impeding economic and social progress. Country-level malaria estimates available for 2010 show that 80 per cent of estimated malaria deaths occur in 14 of the 99 countries with ongoing transmission. Together, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria account for more than 40 per cent of the estimated global total of malaria deaths. Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania are also highly affected. Those six countries account for an estimated 103 million (or 47 per cent) of the global malaria cases. In South-East Asia, the second most affected part of the world, India has the highest malaria burden, followed by Indonesia and Myanmar.

14. In the *World Malaria Report 2012*, WHO painted a mixed picture of global malaria trends, warning both about a slowdown in progress owing to shortfalls in financing and the possibility of malaria resurgences in areas in which the disease had previously been controlled. WHO also highlighted the two main biological threats that could significantly set back the global effort to control malaria: emerging parasite resistance in South-East Asia to artemisinin, the key compound in the WHO-recommended first-line treatment for uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria, and growing mosquito resistance to insecticides, which threatens vector control efforts.

Vector control

15. Interventions to control *Anopheles* mosquitoes, which are responsible for malaria transmission to humans, have been critical in reducing or interrupting disease transmission, in particular in areas that are highly prone to malaria. Indoor residual spraying and the use of insecticide-treated nets, whether conventional nets

or long-lasting insecticidal nets, are the two core, broadly applicable malaria vector control measures.[1]

16. By 2011, 78 countries, including 32 in Africa, had adopted the WHO recommendation to provide insecticide-treated nets to all persons at risk of malaria. A total of 89 countries, including 39 in Africa, had a national policy to distribute such nets free of charge, resulting in a major expansion in access. According to the latest available data, 53 per cent of households in sub-Saharan Africa own at least one bednet. In 2012, an estimated 33 per cent of the population at risk, and 41 per cent of children under 5 years of age, were sleeping under a bednet in sub-Saharan Africa. Behaviour change communication campaigns are essential to improving bednet utilization. UNICEF and other partners are heavily involved in these efforts.

17. Every year, an estimated 150 million new insecticide-treated nets are needed to protect all populations at risk of malaria in endemic countries of sub-Saharan Africa. In 2011, however, only 92 million nets were delivered to those countries and, by 2012, the number had fallen to an estimated 66 million. According to analysis conducted by the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, as a result of the slowdown 13 countries in Africa saw a decrease in their operational insecticide-treated net coverage in the second half of 2012, leaving their populations at increased risk of malaria. The slowdown has multiple causes, with the key drivers thought to be the slow pace of implementation of projects financed by the Global Fund and the cancellation of the Fund's eleventh round of grants.

18. WHO and Roll Back Malaria partners, deeply concerned about this development, have called for urgent action to put in place the necessary financing and to speed up bednet procurement. Malaria partners globally are working with endemic countries to facilitate the disbursement of existing resources for vector control interventions and to mobilize additional resources. Roll Back Malaria partners are also exploring ways to improve the durability of insecticide-treated nets and to open up new delivery channels. Efforts are under way to track bottlenecks in all countries, especially the highest-burden countries of Africa. Unless deliveries are massively increased in 2013 and 2014, endemic countries will be unable to fully replace all expiring nets and will experience increases in malaria cases and deaths.

19. Indoor residual spraying is a powerful vector control tool for reducing and interrupting malaria transmission. In 2011, 80 countries, including 38 in the WHO African region, recommended indoor spraying for malaria control. Around the world, indoor spraying programmes protected 153 million people, or 5 per cent of the global population at risk, in 2011. In the WHO African region, the proportion of the at-risk population that was protected rose from less than 5 per cent in 2005 to 11 per cent in 2010 and remained at that level in 2011, benefiting 77 million people. The most recent data received from endemic countries and malaria control partners show that progress in the roll-out of indoor spraying programmes has recently slowed.

20. While existing vector control tools remain effective, the emergence of mosquito resistance to insecticides in 64 countries, including in most endemic countries in Africa, presents a major threat to malaria control efforts around the

[1] Although WHO recommends the use of long-lasting insecticidal nets, given the widespread continued use of conventional insecticide-treated nets, especially outside Africa, the more generic term "insecticide-treated nets" is used when referring to bednets herein.

world. As requested by the World Health Assembly and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board, WHO published a global plan for insecticide resistance management in malaria vectors in May 2012, calling upon Governments, development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and research and industry partners to tackle the growing threat. While several countries have taken action, most have not yet developed a focused insecticide resistance management strategy or established adequate routine surveillance systems, owing to a lack of financial resources and entomologic capacity.

21. Recently, WHO has noted the expansion of larviciding activities in some sub-Saharan African countries. WHO recommends larviciding in sub-Saharan Africa only as a complementary intervention, rather than as a core vector control intervention. It should be used only in areas in which mosquito breeding sites are few, fixed and findable. Larviciding can be a useful and cost-effective intervention in urban and peri-urban areas, but is generally not recommended for rural areas in which mosquito breeding sites are innumerable, shifting and widely dispersed. In April 2012, WHO issued a position statement on larviciding to guide countries in the appropriate implementation of this intervention, reiterating the potential negative health and environmental impacts of using larval products that have not been recommended by the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme.

Preventive therapies

22. Preventive chemotherapies are key elements of the comprehensive package of malaria prevention and control measures recommended by WHO. Recommended preventive therapies include intermittent preventive treatment of pregnant women, intermittent preventive treatment of infants and seasonal malaria chemoprevention.

23. Intermittent preventive treatment of pregnant women should be given at routine antenatal visits in areas with moderate-to-high malaria transmission in sub-Saharan Africa. Intermittent preventive treatment of infants should be delivered through immunization services in the same areas. The uptake and national roll-out of these two interventions, in particular the latter, has been somewhat slower than expected. Seasonal malaria chemoprevention is recommended for administration to children under 5 years of age during the malaria season in areas of highly seasonal malaria transmission throughout the Sahel.

24. An estimated 32 million pregnant women could benefit from intermittent preventive treatment each year in endemic countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In high-burden countries, implementation of this intervention noticeably lags behind other malaria control measures, the relatively good levels of antenatal clinic attendance notwithstanding. Health worker training and simplified intermittent preventive treatment messages have been shown to improve coverage. To facilitate these efforts, WHO updated its intermittent preventive treatment recommendation in October 2012 and now recommends administration at each scheduled antenatal care visit. WHO recommends a schedule of four antenatal care visits.

25. WHO recommends that intermittent preventive treatment of infants be administered through immunization services at defined intervals corresponding to routine vaccination schedules. Because the treatment uses routine immunization as its delivery platform, coverage could be swiftly increased and impact rapidly achieved. Administration is safe, simple, cost-effective and well accepted by health workers and communities. An estimated 28 million infants born each year could

benefit from this preventive therapy. Only Burkina Faso has adopted intermittent preventive treatment of infants as national policy since the WHO recommendation was issued in 2009.

26. Throughout the Sahel, most childhood malaria morbidity and mortality occurs during the rainy season, which is generally short (between three and four months). Giving effective malaria treatment at monthly intervals during this period has been shown to offer 75 per cent protection against uncomplicated and severe malaria in children under 5 years of age. Seasonal malaria chemoprevention is a cost-effective and safe therapy that can be administered by community health workers. An estimated 25 million children aged between 3 and 59 months could benefit from this preventive therapy every year. The WHO seasonal malaria chemoprevention recommendation was issued in March 2012 and two countries have adopted the policy to date. Several others, which had been involved in the evaluation of the policy, have indicated a commitment to expanding seasonal malaria chemoprevention coverage beyond their study populations.

Diagnostic testing

27. Early and accurate diagnosis of malaria is essential for effective disease management and malaria surveillance. WHO recommends prompt parasitological confirmation of suspected malaria either by microscopy or malaria rapid diagnostic test in all patients with suspected malaria before treatment is administered. Implementation of universal diagnostic testing in the public and private sectors would substantially reduce global requirements for antimalarial treatment. Diagnostic testing also provides better patient care, is essential for timely and accurate surveillance and helps to reduce the emergence and spread of drug resistance by reserving antimalarials for those who actually have malaria.

28. Recent years have witnessed a sharp increase in the number of countries that have adopted and implemented expanded policies for malaria diagnostic testing. By 2011, 87 endemic countries, including 41 in the WHO African region, had adopted a policy of providing parasitological diagnosis for all age groups. Malaria diagnostic testing is provided free of charge in the public sector in 84 countries. These policy decisions have led to substantial progress in scaling up diagnostic testing in endemic countries and a gradual expansion at the community level.

29. The proportion of suspected malaria cases receiving a diagnostic test in the public sector increased from 20 per cent in 2005 to 47 per cent in 2011 in the WHO African region and from 68 to 77 per cent globally. In the WHO African region, most of the increase is attributable to an expansion in the use of rapid diagnostic tests, which accounted for 40 per cent of all cases tested in the region in 2011. Globally, the number of rapid diagnostic tests supplied by manufacturers almost doubled within a year, from 88 million in 2010 to 155 million in 2011. That increase notwithstanding, most fever cases continue to be treated presumptively. In the WHO African region, the total number of diagnostic tests (both microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests) was less than half the number of artemisinin-based combination therapies distributed by national malaria control programmes in 2011.

Antimalarial treatment

30. Artemisinin-based combination therapies are recommended by WHO as the first-line treatment for malaria caused by *P. falciparum*, the most dangerous of the

Plasmodium parasites that infect humans. By 2011, 79 countries and territories had adopted such therapies as first-line treatment for *P. falciparum* malaria. Since 2011, WHO has recommended that all patients with severe malaria be treated with injectable artesunate (intramuscular or intravenous), followed by a complete course of an artemisinin-based combination therapy as soon as the patient can take oral medicines. *P. vivax* malaria should be treated with chloroquine where it is effective or with an appropriate artemisinin-based combination therapy in areas in which *P. vivax* is resistant to chloroquine. Treatment of *P. vivax* should be combined with a 14-day course of primaquine to prevent relapse.

31. Recent years have witnessed a further expansion in deliveries of artemisinin-based combination therapy to endemic countries. The number of treatment courses delivered to the public and private sectors globally increased from 187 million in 2010 to 278 million in 2011. Increases in procurement during this period were primarily in the private sector and occurred in large part through the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria, an initiative managed by the Global Fund. The increase in deliveries globally notwithstanding, several countries continued to face public sector stock-outs during the course of 2011 owing to persisting problems in procurement and supply chain management.

32. Late in 2011, an inter-agency task force was set up to identify potential causes of artemisinin-based combination therapy and rapid diagnostic test stock-outs in the public sector and to promote mitigating actions. Coordinated by WHO, it comprised the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, the Global Fund, the President's Malaria Initiative (launched by the President of the United States), the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF. Task force interventions included negotiations to release delayed donor funding, placing new orders, expediting deliveries with manufacturers, splitting deliveries to address temporary shortfalls and facilitating the movement of surplus stocks. As a result of the inter-agency effort, artemisinin-based combination therapy stock-outs were averted in 17 countries in 2012.

33. The widespread practice of using oral artemisinin-based monotherapies, which are less expensive to produce and purchase, has posed a major risk to malaria control efforts and contributed to the emergence of artemisinin resistance. WHO recommends that oral artemisinin-based monotherapies be withdrawn from markets and replaced with artemisinin-based combination therapies, a policy repeatedly endorsed by the World Health Assembly since 2007. According to the most recent assessment by WHO (March 2013), oral artemisinin-based monotherapies continue to be marketed by at least 31 companies, mostly based in India and Africa. Globally, 43 countries have withdrawn marketing authorization for oral artemisinin-based monotherapies, but 15 continue to allow their marketing, including 9 in Africa.

34. The year 2012 saw a significant increase in the choice of WHO pre-qualified antimalarial medicines. Of the 28 antimalarial pharmaceutical products currently on the list of pre-qualified medicines, 10 were pre-qualified in 2012. WHO also pre-qualified 12 new active pharmaceutical ingredients for use in the manufacture of antimalarial medicines. This substantial increase is expected to translate into increased competition, which in turn will reduce the price of medicines. A benefit of reduced prices will be less incentive to purchase cheaper non-pre-qualified medicines, which tend to be of lower quality. WHO is also working to increase medicine quality testing capacity in malaria-endemic regions.

Integrated community case management

35. WHO and UNICEF have increased efforts to support endemic countries in Africa to scale up integrated community case management. As part of such management, community health workers are trained, supplied and supervised to diagnose and treat children for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. This equity-focused strategy aims to complement and extend the reach of public health services by providing timely and effective treatment of those diseases in rural areas with limited access to facility-based health-care providers, with a special focus on children under 5 years of age. In June 2012, WHO and UNICEF issued a joint statement on improving access to essential treatment services for children through integrated community case management. These efforts help to advance a campaign, launched by Columbia University and endorsed by the African Union, which aims to train and deploy, by 2015, 1 million community health workers in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

Antimalarial drug resistance

36. In recent years, the emergence of artemisinin resistance in the Greater Mekong subregion of South-East Asia has presented a significant challenge to regional malaria control and elimination efforts. Parasite resistance to artemisinin, the key compound in the WHO-recommended first-line treatment for uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria, was first confirmed in Cambodia in 2008. Artemisinin-resistant parasites have since been detected in Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam and containment activities are under way in all affected countries. A further spread of malaria-resistant strains, or the independent emergence of artemisinin resistance in other regions, could disrupt global malaria control efforts.

37. The observed changes in the efficacy of the artemisinin component notwithstanding, artemisinin-based combination therapies continue to cure patients in this region, provided that the partner drug is efficacious. In Pailin Province, Cambodia, resistance has been found to both components of multiple artemisinin-based combination therapies. Accordingly, special provisions for directly observed therapy using a non-artemisinin-based combination (atovaquone-proguanil) have been put in place. Therapeutic efficacy studies remain the gold standard for guiding drug policy; WHO recommends that they be undertaken every two years. In 2010 and 2011, studies of first-line or second-line antimalarial treatments were completed in 47 of 71 countries in which *P. falciparum* efficacy studies were possible, an increase from 31 countries in 2008 and 2009.

38. Early in 2013, WHO finalized an emergency response framework to guide the multi-stakeholder effort to further scale up programmes to contain artemisinin resistance in the Greater Mekong subregion. A regional hub was established in Phnom Penh to provide an umbrella for the coordinated, high-impact delivery of targeted programmes to respond to country needs. The framework will be implemented by a consortium of endemic countries, organizations of the United Nations system and country-based malaria partners in the context of increasing regional political commitment to tackling the challenge of drug-resistant malaria. These efforts are built on the foundation of the Global Plan for Artemisinin Resistance Containment, which was launched by the Director General of WHO in 2011.

Surveillance

39. WHO urges malaria-endemic countries to strengthen their disease surveillance, health information and vital registration systems. The data generated through such systems are essential for evaluating and improving the effectiveness of health interventions. Owing to weaknesses in malaria surveillance systems, only 58 endemic countries currently produce sufficiently complete and consistent data on malaria to permit an assessment of trends. Those countries account for only 15 per cent of estimated cases worldwide. There is a critical need to strengthen malaria surveillance in the other 41 countries with ongoing malaria transmission to enable ministries of health to direct resources to populations most in need, respond effectively to disease outbreaks and assess the impact of control measures.

40. In 2012, WHO released two new operational manuals for malaria surveillance, one on disease surveillance for malaria control and the other on disease surveillance for malaria elimination. Those manuals, along with the manual for universal access to malaria diagnostic testing and the second edition of the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria*, are the core WHO documents that underpin the initiative known as "T3: Test. Treat. Track", which urges, and provides tools for, malaria-endemic countries and global malaria partners to focus efforts on scaling up diagnostic testing, treatment and surveillance for malaria. The initiative and the surveillance manuals were launched in Namibia by the Director General of WHO in April 2012.

Policy-setting and new guidance from the World Health Organization

41. In 2011, WHO completed a major redesign of its policy-setting process for malaria control and elimination, resulting in the creation of a malaria policy advisory committee as an independent advisory group of leading malaria experts, enabling WHO to strengthen its policy-setting process and make it more transparent and responsive to the needs of member States. All recent WHO policy recommendations, including the new seasonal malaria chemoprevention policy, the updated policy for intermittent preventive treatment of pregnant women and the updated policy for single-dose primaquine as a gametocytocide for treatment of *P. falciparum* malaria in selected settings, were issued in line with the Committee's recommendations.

42. Since the previous progress report on malaria submitted to the General Assembly (A/66/169), and in addition to the policies and strategies mentioned earlier, WHO has also issued guidelines for procuring public health pesticides, draft interim recommendations on the sound management of packaging for long-lasting insecticidal nets, a handbook on the management of severe malaria, a position statement on the effectiveness of non-pharmaceutical forms of *Artemisia annua* against malaria and a field guide for the implementation of seasonal malaria chemoprevention. At its meeting in September 2012, the Committee requested the Global Malaria Programme to prepare a global technical strategy for malaria control and elimination for the period 2016-2025. The strategy will serve as the technical foundation for a revised version of the Global Malaria Action Plan of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, which will be developed in the coming years.

Malaria vaccine development

43. The complexity of the malaria parasite makes development of a malaria vaccine an extremely difficult task. There is currently no commercially available malaria vaccine, the decades of intense research and development notwithstanding. The most advanced candidate vaccine against *P. falciparum* is RTS,S/AS01. Its phase 3 trial, which began in May 2009, completed enrolment of 15,460 children in seven countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Two age groups are enrolled in the trial: children aged between 5 and 17 months at first dose receiving only the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine and children aged between 6 and 12 weeks at first dose who receive the same malaria vaccine in co-administration with pentavalent vaccines in the routine immunization schedule. Depending on the full trial results, expected in 2014, and on regulatory submission timings, the first WHO policy recommendations on this malaria vaccine are expected late in 2015.

Strategic planning and capacity-building

44. In 2012, global malaria partners provided support to endemic countries in the strengthening of malaria control and elimination programmes, including the conduct of national malaria programme reviews following WHO technical guidance. These reviews serve as the basis for renewing national malaria strategic plans, for which the WHO Regional Office for Africa has issued draft guidance. Roll Back Malaria partners also collaborated with endemic countries on the development of country programmatic and gap analyses and road maps. Roll Back Malaria subregional networks facilitated a coordinated response to urgent country needs, including by unblocking delayed financing.

45. WHO and Roll Back Malaria partners also ran a series of international and regional malaria training courses for programme managers and staff in national and subnational malaria control programmes, including on planning and management of malaria control interventions; malaria surveillance, monitoring and evaluation; malaria elimination; and monitoring antimalarial drug resistance. Through training courses in 2011 and 2012, more than 230 malaria programme managers and health professionals were trained in the WHO African, Eastern Mediterranean and European regions. WHO is currently developing a series of new training materials tailored to the needs of countries with varying degrees of malaria endemicity.

Malaria elimination

46. The global malaria community continued to provide tailored support to countries nearing elimination. Currently, 25 malaria-endemic countries are en route to eliminating malaria and many more have declared malaria elimination as a national goal. In recent years, Armenia, Morocco, Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates have been certified as free of malaria by WHO.

47. Cross-border collaboration, the sharing of best practices, improvements in diagnostic tools and strong regional, intercountry and district-level efforts are essential to sustaining progress in countries advancing towards elimination, such as the signatories to the Tashkent Declaration in the WHO European region, in addition to the countries of the Southern African Development Community, Asia and the Pacific, the Arabian Peninsula and Mesoamerica. Investments in these efforts have already resulted in an accelerated decline in malaria burden and increased capacity

to prevent the reintroduction of malaria into areas in which transmission has been interrupted.

48. In countries in which malaria is limited to remote, forested areas, malaria cases among migrants and mobile populations often represent a high percentage of the total number of cases. In such countries, progress towards malaria elimination will require improved access to health services for those groups and strong cross-border and regional collaboration.

Global advocacy

49. Global malaria partners continued to work with national and global leaders to build political commitment to urgent action to reduce the malaria burden around the world. African Heads of State continued to convene twice a year for the African Leaders Malaria Alliance Forum, held during the summit of the African Union, to reaffirm their commitment to defeating malaria. In February 2013, 13 countries received awards from the Alliance for their progress in efforts to combat the disease. In December 2012, the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who is currently chairing the Alliance, hosted an event in Monrovia to launch the *World Malaria Report 2012* and the report of the WHO Commission on Women's Health in the African Region on addressing the challenge of women's health in Africa, further underscoring strong African commitment to combating the disease.

50. Growing international momentum around child and maternal health culminated in the Child Survival: Call to Action high-level forum, held in Washington, D.C., in June 2012, convened by the Governments of Ethiopia, India and the United States, in collaboration with UNICEF. The conference led to the birth of the "A promise renewed" initiative, which has been endorsed by more than 160 Governments and has triggered new commitments to strengthen health service delivery mechanisms in malaria-endemic countries. For example, the President of Nigeria, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, launched an initiative to save 1 million lives by 2015 through the scaling up of access to essential primary health services and commodities for women and children.

51. Political momentum has also been building in Asia and the Pacific. The Government of Australia hosted a high-level malaria summit from 31 October to 2 November 2012, co-chaired by the Special Envoy for Malaria and supported by WHO, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and other global partners. The outcome adopted, a "consensus on malaria control and elimination in the Asia-Pacific", included a call to create a malaria alliance of leaders in the region. This was followed by the adoption, at the seventh East Asia Summit, held on 20 November 2012 in Cambodia, of a declaration on regional responses to malaria control and addressing resistance to antimalarial medicines. WHO and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership released a report focusing on malaria outside Africa, which followed several other country and thematic reports published in the Partnership's "Progress and Impact" series.

52. Instituted by the World Health Assembly in 2007, World Malaria Day 2012 was observed by member States, organizations of the United Nations system, global development partners, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to raise public awareness of global efforts to control malaria and the importance of accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Its theme was "Sustain gains, save lives: invest in malaria". The Secretary-General presented an

award to the Roll Back Malaria Partnership goodwill ambassador, Princess Astrid of Belgium, for her efforts to raise awareness about the suffering caused by malaria. The campaign for World Malaria Day 2013 has been devised as a multi-year campaign and is running under the umbrella theme "Invest in the future: defeat malaria".

III. Urgent funding needs for global malaria control

53. Global resource requirements to achieve universal coverage of malaria interventions were estimated in the Global Malaria Action Plan to exceed $5.1 billion per year between 2011 and 2020 ($2.3 billion per year in Africa). While international disbursements expanded eightfold between 2004 and 2011, available funding remains substantially less than the amount needed to achieve universal coverage of malaria interventions and reach the global malaria targets.

54. International financing for malaria totalled $1.66 billion in 2011 and $1.84 billion in 2012. Domestic financing for malaria control and elimination has shown a gradual rise. It was estimated to be $625 million in 2011, with endemic countries in Africa and South America committing most resources. Combining both domestic and international funds, the resources available for malaria control globally were estimated to be $2.3 billion in 2011, leaving a gap of $2.8 billion. On the basis of country-level analysis, the funding gap for malaria commodities and their distribution for the period 2013-2015 is $3.6 billion for Africa alone.

55. There is thus an urgent need to identify new funding sources, both international and domestic, to accelerate progress towards global targets and prevent disease outbreaks. The Special Envoy for Malaria, whose role was expanded to include the financing of the Millennium Development Goals relating to health in March 2013, has taken the lead in developing innovative financing mechanisms to create more stable and predictable malaria financing. Roll Back Malaria partners are also exploring a malaria bond, which could generate funding for malaria interventions, together with additional options such as guarantee mechanisms to optimize timing of funding. Efforts are also under way to explore revenue generation mechanisms, including taxes on airline tickets and financial transactions to co-finance development assistance.

56. Under the umbrella of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, global malaria partners convened two high-level meetings, in 2012 and 2013, to conduct comprehensive programmatic gap analyses and identify the most urgent operational challenges in endemic countries. The meetings were attended by representatives of more than 40 Governments and development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and the private sector. Gap analysis projections were later presented to ministers of finance to encourage new national commitments to increased domestic resources to combat the disease. At its meeting in December 2012, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board called for urgent action to address the dire funding situation of eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

57. In 2012, the Global Fund underwent a major reform and restructuring process, which led to the development of a new funding model that will move away from the round-based system and give malaria-endemic countries more flexibility with regard to aligning funding with national malaria control strategies, which should provide greater funding predictability for countries. As from 2014, the Global Fund will

focus more strongly on countries with the highest burden of disease and the least ability to provide domestic financing, ensuring greater equity in access to international funds. A separate resource envelope will be created to reward high-impact, well-performing programmes.

58. Given that some 60 per cent of all international funding for malaria has previously been disbursed by the Global Fund, it is critical to maintain high-level donor commitment and ensure that the Global Fund remains a major source of strategic investment in efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The next replenishment of the Global Fund, scheduled for September 2013, will be critical to the future success of malaria control and to protecting the gains achieved.

IV. Progress towards global goals and targets

59. The success of efforts to control and eliminate malaria is measured through progress made towards a set of 2015 targets, which have been designed through intergovernmental processes or set in the context of global initiatives. Progress towards the targets is summarized each year by WHO in the *World Malaria Report*, which provides a comprehensive overview of trends in programme financing, intervention coverage and malaria cases and deaths. Data for the report are received from national malaria control programmes in endemic countries, via WHO regional offices, and are complemented by information received through household surveys, notably demographic and health surveys, multiple indicator cluster surveys and malaria indicator surveys.

60. Assessing progress towards country-specific burden reduction targets has been challenging, given that surveillance systems in high-burden countries in sub-Saharan Africa detect only a fraction of the actual malaria cases and deaths. With a global detection rate of 10 per cent, malaria is one of the least trackable infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa. In 41 malaria-endemic countries around the world, including 32 in Africa, an assessment of malaria trends can be made only by using burden estimation methods that rely on a modelled relationship between malaria transmission, intervention coverage and case incidence or mortality.

Millennium Development Goal 6

61. Malaria prevention and control has formed part of Millennium Development Goal 6, target 6.C: have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. Changes in global malaria incidence and mortality rates between 2000 and 2010 suggest that the world is on track to reach this target. Between 2000 and 2010, malaria incidence rates, which take into account population growth, were reduced by 17 per cent globally and by 23 per cent in Africa. The malaria mortality rate decreased by more than 25 per cent worldwide during the same period, while the decline in Africa was 33 per cent. This progress can be sustained only if interventions continue to be scaled up, robust control operations are implemented in all high-burden countries and resurgences and outbreaks are prevented, however. The coming few years will be critical to ensuring that both funding and political commitment are sufficient to keep efforts to combat malaria on the right course.

62. Progress towards the target is also monitored through an analysis of population coverage with prevention and treatment interventions, in particular the use of

insecticide-treated nets and the percentage of cases that are treated with an artemisinin-based combination therapy. While universal coverage continues to remain a distant target for most countries, the past few years have witnessed a major expansion of access to both insecticide-treated nets and artemisinin-based combination therapies.

63. Trends in bednet delivery in sub-Saharan Africa show that the numbers of bednets delivered by manufacturers increased dramatically from 6 million in 2004 to 145 million in 2010. As mentioned above, this increase has translated into an expanding coverage of at-risk populations with bednets. The proportion of households in sub-Saharan Africa owning at least one insecticide-treated net reached 53 per cent in 2011. Meanwhile, the proportion of the at-risk population sleeping under a bednet was 33 per cent in 2012, while the proportion of children under 5 years of age doing so was slightly higher, at 41 per cent.

64. While artemisinin-based combination therapy sales have expanded substantially around the world, reliable data about the utilization of these antimalarials in the public and private sectors are not available. On the basis of endemic country data on artemisinin-based combination therapy distribution and the estimated number of *P. falciparum* cases at public facilities, WHO produces estimates regarding the proportion of cases receiving such treatment in public health facilities. According to these estimates, countries in the WHO Americas, European, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacific regions procured and distributed sufficient artemisinin-based combination therapies to be able to treat all *P. falciparum* cases in 2011. Meanwhile, countries in South-East Asia could treat only 73 per cent of their confirmed cases and countries in Africa only 55 per cent.

Abuja targets

65. By adopting the Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria in Africa, and its plan of action, in April 2000, leaders of malaria-endemic countries in Africa committed themselves to halving malaria mortality by 2010, later extending the target to 2015. The Declaration also contained a commitment to reducing or waiving taxes and tariffs on imported antimalarial medicines, insecticide-treated bednets and other essential malaria commodities. The African Leaders Malaria Alliance, in collaboration with WHO and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, produces a quarterly scorecard tracking progress against a set number of indicators in all malaria-endemic countries in Africa.

66. According to the most recent scorecard (January 2013), 28 countries have made progress towards removing tariffs on all antimalarial commodities, but only 10 are on track to fully remove them by 2015. Taxes and tariffs on insecticide-treated nets and rapid diagnostic tests have been removed in more than 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, while more than 30 countries have abolished taxes and tariffs on antimalarial medicines.

67. According to the *World Malaria Report 2012*, 11 malaria-endemic countries and one area in sub-Saharan Africa are on track to meet the target of reducing the malaria burden by more than 50 per cent by 2015. Progress towards this target is measured through an analysis of trends in malaria incidence rates. Eight countries (Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa and Swaziland) and one area (Zanzibar) have already reached this target, having reduced their malaria incidence rates by more than 75 per cent. Eritrea has

reduced its malaria incidence rate by more than half, while Madagascar and Zambia are projected to reach this target by 2015. In other African countries, it is currently not possible to assess trends in malaria incidence owing to incompleteness or inconsistency in reporting.

World Health Assembly targets

68. In 2005, the World Health Assembly set the target of reducing the malaria burden by 50 per cent between 2000 and 2010 and by 75 per cent by 2015. According to the *World Malaria Report 2012*, 50 of the 99 countries and territories with ongoing malaria transmission are on track to achieve a 75 per cent reduction in their incidence rates by 2015. Eight of those countries and one area are in the WHO African region. While that reduction represents tremendous progress, those countries account for only 3 per cent (or 7 million) of the malaria cases that are estimated to occur around the world. Globally, malaria incidence rates were reduced by 17 per cent between 2000 and 2010, while the decline in Africa was 23 per cent. To achieve swifter progress towards this target, efforts need to be substantially expanded in the 17 highest-burden countries, which account for an estimated 80 per cent of malaria cases.

Global Malaria Action Plan goals

69. The Global Malaria Action Plan was launched in 2008 as part of a global advocacy drive to catalyse support for malaria control and elimination and to rally partners around a common plan of action to combat the disease. The objectives of the Plan, as revised in 2011, are to reduce global malaria deaths to near zero by the end of 2015, to reduce global malaria cases by 75 per cent by the end of 2015 and to eliminate malaria by 2015 in at least 8 to 10 new countries (since 2008) and in the WHO European region. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership called for an estimated $5.1 billion annually to ensure universal coverage of malaria interventions and achieve the ambitious targets. As mentioned above, those funding targets could not be fully achieved, partly because of the decrease in available global health and development funding triggered by the global financial crisis.

70. As the figures cited above have shown, there has been steady progress towards all these ambitious goals. To move closer to attaining the first two goals, however, an urgent and significant expansion of malaria financing will be required, in particular in the highest-burden countries. With regard to the third goal, eight new countries (within and outside the WHO European region) have reduced local malaria transmission to zero since 2008 (the Bahamas, Georgia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uzbekistan) and three others have been certified as free of malaria since 2008 (Armenia, Morocco and Turkmenistan). The WHO European region is generally on track to reduce local malaria cases to zero by 2015, but additional efforts are needed to contain recent outbreaks in Greece and Turkey.

71. To accelerate progress in the highest-burden countries in Africa, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office of the Special Envoy for Malaria, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and WHO are working together on setting up a malaria situation room. This unprecedented collaboration will allow participating organizations to track endemic country challenges in real time to prevent stock-outs of commodities,

resolve bottlenecks and facilitate a response to country requests for technical assistance. The focus will be on Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

V. Recommendations

72. **Member States are urged to step up efforts towards attaining global malaria targets and address the priority actions highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/289. It is imperative that they maintain a high level of political commitment to reducing the suffering and loss of life caused by malaria. Malaria control and elimination should remain a key priority for global health and development beyond 2015, with more focused attention on health system strengthening and human capacity development, enabling malaria-endemic countries to improve their overall response to the challenges posed by infectious diseases.**

73. **There is an urgent need to increase the availability of financing for malaria control through both traditional and innovative financing tools to alleviate suffering in the 17 highest-burden countries, which account for an estimated 80 per cent of malaria cases. Only through dramatic scale-up of interventions and sustaining of coverage can Africa's worst-affected countries prevent malaria resurgences and move closer towards achieving global targets. Adequate and predictable financing is essential if the gains achieved in malaria control and elimination over the past decade are to be protected.**

74. **Endemic countries are urged to maintain and, if possible, increase the domestic resources that they make available to combat malaria. It is also recommended that they strengthen strategic planning processes and national operational plans, in line with WHO technical recommendations, and integrate those with national health sector and development plans. National malaria strategies will be used to inform funding allocation decisions by the Global Fund under its new funding model. It is also recommended that endemic countries increasingly adopt a multi-sectoral approach to malaria control and address the social determinants of health with a view to reducing health inequities, as called for in the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health, adopted in October 2011, and General Assembly resolution 67/81, on global health and foreign policy.**

75. **Endemic countries should make a concerted effort to put in place mechanisms and devise strategies to achieve universal coverage of malaria interventions. The expansion of malaria interventions can be used as an entry point for strengthening health systems, including laboratory services and maternal and child health services at peripheral health facilities, and to build stronger health information and infectious disease surveillance systems. A further scale-up of integrated community case management in the highest-burden countries would be a cost-effective solution to help to bridge systems gaps until health infrastructures are further strengthened.**

76. **Endemic countries are also urged to continue efforts to combat emerging biological threats to malaria control. Drug resistance should be prevented through the implementation of WHO recommendations in the Global Plan for**

Artemisinin Resistance Containment and through scale-up of containment programmes in countries in which resistance has been confirmed or is suspected. Strong political commitment is required to launch a coordinated and renewed effort to phase out the use of oral artemisinin-based monotherapies and to remove from markets antimalarial medicines not meeting WHO pre-qualification standards. The further spread of insecticide resistance should be stopped through adoption of the recommendations in the Global Plan for Insecticide Resistance Management in Malaria Vectors.

77. **There is a critical need to strengthen malaria surveillance and data quality throughout Africa to enable ministries of health to direct financial resources to populations most in need, to respond effectively to disease outbreaks and to assess the impact of control measures. Mechanisms for country-based technical assistance coordination should also be strengthened to help malaria-endemic countries to translate WHO technical guidance into national strategies and action plans. Additional financing is needed to support the sharing and analysis of knowledge, health information and best practices to address urgent programmatic challenges, to improve monitoring and evaluation and to conduct regular financial planning and gap analysis. Further improvement in cross-border and regional collaboration is also imperative.**

78. **An effective global partnership under the umbrella of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership will continue to be fundamental to making further progress. Collaborative efforts should be expanded to facilitate the engagement of sectors other than the health sector to ensure a genuine multi-sectoral and whole-of-government response to the complex challenges posed by malaria. Lastly, the contributions of the scientific community and the private sector remain essential: new products such as improved diagnostic tools, efficacious medicines, an effective vaccine, new insecticides and more durable insecticide-treated nets are all fundamental to ensuring sustained progress in efforts to combat the disease. The remarkable progress against malaria can be maintained only through a concerted and focused multi-stakeholder effort, built on the foundation of global political commitment, continuous scientific advancement and vigorous innovation.**

United Nations A/67/826

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 April 2013

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 65 (a)
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Letter dated 4 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey information on the State policy of Uzbekistan on ensuring and protecting the rights of children (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 65 (a).

(*Signed*) Dilyor **Khakimov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

13-28413 (E) 100413 100413

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 4 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Children's well-being: a State policy priority for Uzbekistan

The State policy of Uzbekistan for ensuring and protecting the rights of children operates within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, international obligations and programme strategy documents including the National Plan of Action to uphold the rights and interests of children.

A wide range of children's and young people's rights is enshrined in the Constitution of Uzbekistan; such rights are also included in and guaranteed by the Civil Code (1995) and the Family Code (1998). The fundamental rights of children, and the defence of those rights, have been developed in more than 10 acts, 30 Presidential decrees and decisions; approximately 40 Cabinet of Ministers decisions and 30 departmental legal and regulatory instruments.

The following State institutions have been established and placed in operation to defend children's rights:

(a) A network to uphold the rights of the family, motherhood and children, operating within the government and headed by the Deputy Prime Minister; it coordinates the activities of State governmental and administrative bodies in matters of implementing the children's rights guaranteed by the Constitution;

(b) A special commission attached to the Cabinet of Ministers deals with matters connected with minors. It is headed by the Attorney-General, whose remit includes matters of children's position in society, including monitoring the prohibition of the worst forms of child labour;

(c) The Presidential Decision on measures for raising effectiveness in preventing human trafficking established an Inter-Agency Commission against Human Trafficking, which includes the senior officials of ministries and departments. Similar commissions were established at province and district level;

(d) The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection structure includes State labour-legislation and labour-protection inspectorates which carry out official monitoring of the prohibition of violations of young people's labour rights.

A vital element of State social policy is the establishment of an environment conducive to the holistic physical and spiritual development and educational and professional improvement of the emerging generation.

Particular attention is focused on the successful employment of graduates of vocational secondary schools. The outcome of discussions between these schools and businesses on work experience for future graduates, with the prospect of subsequent recruitment, has been put into practice.

In the recent past, Uzbekistan has been investing approximately 12 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product in education every year. For the period between 2011 and 2016, over UZS 277 billion has been allocated to implement an infrastructure

modernization programme for higher-education institutions and major improvements in the training of specialists.

Non-governmental, non-profit organizations and civil-society institutions make a significant contribution to implementing the right of young people to education and development.

In this connection, the Forum for the Culture and Art of Uzbekistan is conducting a programme to develop and establish a national model for continuing inclusive education in Uzbekistan. It includes development of a national model of inclusive education for pre-school and junior school stages of education, through the establishment of mixed groups piloted in schools and kindergartens.

The international community has recognized Uzbekistan's education system reform, which provides for 12 years of compulsory education, as a powerful instrument against child labour.

In 2008, the Parliament of Uzbekistan ratified two extremely important International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions: Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

A Government Decision of 12 September 2008 adopted the National Plan of Action for the implementation of those ILO Conventions, containing specific deadlines for compliance; on 26 March 2012, a plan of additional measures for 2012-2013 was adopted.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has been given responsibility for coordinating the action of State authorities, economic authorities, local-level State authorities and other bodies to ensure implementation of the commitments in the plans of action.

On 25 March 2011, an Inter-Agency Working Group was established to prepare and present information on the implementation of ILO Conventions ratified by Uzbekistan, as ILO is the body responsible for preventing violations of labour law by employers and workers. In keeping with the ILO principle of tripartite involvement, the Working Group is founded on trilateral representation of Government, employers and workers, and includes officials of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Trade Unions, the Farmers' Association, the National Centre for Human Rights, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Women's Committee and the Kamolot public youth movement.

On 27 June 2012, the Farmers' Association, the Women's Committee and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection adopted a joint decision on local awareness-raising campaigns for farmers and seminars for farming enterprises regarding compliance with ILO conventions and recommendations. These seminars were conducted in August 2012 in all parts of the country.

On 24 August 2012, at a meeting of the Special Working Group for information and awareness-raising about the ban on involving students in general

education schools in the cotton harvest, the composition of local working groups was approved and the necessary instructions were issued.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Health issued a decision adopting Requirements on the Prohibition of Use of Minors' Labour, which is in line with ILO documents on banning and eliminating the worst forms of child labour.

A review has taken place of the list of tasks performed in hazardous conditions, which places a ban on employment of those under 18 to perform over 2,000 hazardous jobs; such jobs cannot be given to minors. Limits were established for the maximum weight which those under 18 could lift or carry.

By a Decision of 29 June 2009 on the development and expansion of family business and handicraft activities, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted regulations on those activities, specifying the conditions for the involvement of minors, taking into account the requirements of the Conventions.

As part of the implementation of the Plan of Action, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Health established a special working group and adopted a programme for local monitoring of the ban on forcing students in general education schools to take part in the cotton harvest. The following are involved in the monitoring process: the Office of the Attorney-General, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of National Education, the Centre for specialized secondary and vocational education, the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, the Kamolot public youth movement, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and local-level State authorities.

In August 2012, the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan issued a decree prohibiting the use of child labour during the cotton harvest. A Government directive banning the involvement of schoolchildren in the cotton harvest was distributed to all schools, via regional education departments. The Office of the Attorney-General was made responsible for monitoring compliance with these rules.

On 2 May 2011, the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, the Farmers' Association and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection adopted a joint declaration banning the use of forced child labour in farming.

Since 2008, all of Uzbekistan has been covered by a child labour hotline facility which can be used at any time by parents and children in cases of rights violations.

The forcing of children into work, by whomever committed, and in whatever form, including threatening retaliation against children or their parents, is prohibited and is prosecuted in accordance with the law in Uzbekistan.

In the interests of making economic entities and individuals more accountable for violations of the requirement to ban the use of minors in work, an Act on additions to the Administrative Liability Code of Uzbekistan to improve the legislation protecting the rights of minors was adopted on 21 December 2009. As a consequence, the legislation provides for increased accountability of officials for violations of labour law in connection with those aged under 18, and increased accountability of individuals for violating the ban on labour undertaken by minors.

United Nations A/67/827–S/2013/219

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 April 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 43
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 5 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith the recorded infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey, committed during the month of March 2013 (see annex). I have the honour to draw your attention to the systematic infringement by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by blatantly violating international rules in a way that seriously jeopardizes international aviation safety in the region.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**

13-28468 (E) 100413

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 March 2013	1102 to 1124	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia area control centre (ACC).
	1415 to 1426	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
4 March 2013	0732 to 0758	Two KC-135R and five F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1313 to 1337	One KC-135R Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
5 March 2013	1557 to 1625	One KC-135R Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
7 March 2013	1004 to 1022	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1007 to 1027	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1241 to 1359	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1245 to 1258	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
		national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1251 to 1305	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1532 to 1721	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
10 March 2013	1528 to 1548	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1534 to 1556	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1634 to 1651	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1638 to 1655	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
11 March 2013	0957 to 1025	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1418 to 1615	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
13 March 2013	1005 to 1207	One AB-212 Turkish helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1057 to 1120	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1313 to 1429	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1541 to 1555	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
14 March 2013	1210 to 1519	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
16 March 2013	1436 to 1541	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
17 March 2013	0813 to 0834	One KC-135R Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
18 March 2013	0824 to 0845	One KC-135R Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1219 to 1504	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1357 to 1440	One KC-135R Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1440 to 1510	One KC-135R and five F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
19 March 2013	1037 to 1159	One AB-212 Turkish helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1343 to 1627	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1507 to 1555	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
20 March 2013	1100 to 1150	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1226 to 1423	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1740 to 1920	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
21 March 2013	1055 to 1150	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1142 to 1219	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1151 to 1207	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1244 to 1446	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1524 to 1534	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1654 to 1710	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	2314 to 2330	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
22 March 2013	1458 to 1710	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1507 to 1615	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1955 to 2310	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
22-23 March 2013	2340 to 0302	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
23 March 2013	0359 to 0559	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1241 to 1247	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
25 March 2013	1250 to 1527	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
27 March 2013	0834 to 1000	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1233 to 1543	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1307 to 1401	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
28 March 2013	1243 to 1447	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
29 March 2013	1347 to 1458	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1405 to 1439	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1547 to 1606	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

United Nations A/67/828–S/2013/210

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 April 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 74
Report of the International Criminal Court

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 3 April 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of guidelines that I have issued on contacts with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International Criminal Court (see annex).

The guidelines set out the policy of the Secretariat on contacts between United Nations officials and persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the Court. They have recently been redrafted and redistributed to senior officials of all units of the Secretariat, including field presences and operations, and of the offices, programmes and funds.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

13-28047 (E) 090413

Please recycle

Annex

Guidance on contacts with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International Criminal Court

The present guidance applies to all parts of the Secretariat, including Secretariat units and offices, programmes and funds.

Background

International Criminal Court proceedings are initiated by the issuance of either an arrest warrant or a summons to appear. Both documents contain, inter alia, reference to the crimes which the person is alleged to have committed, as well as a short statement of the facts which are alleged to constitute those crimes.

The Pre-Trial Chamber issues an arrest warrant in response to an application made by the Prosecutor when the Chamber feels that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person has committed a crime under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and when the Chamber finds it necessary that the person be arrested. States parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court are under an obligation to enforce an arrest warrant issued by the Court.

A summons to appear is an alternative to an arrest warrant and may be sought by the Prosecutor where there are reasonable grounds to believe the accused person has committed the alleged crimes and when the summons is sufficient to ensure the person will appear before the Court. To date the International Criminal Court has issued nine summonses to appear and each of the accused persons summoned have appeared voluntarily before the Court.

(1) Persons subject to warrants of arrest

- Contacts between United Nations officials and persons who are the subject of warrants of arrest issued by the International Criminal Court should be limited to those which are strictly required for carrying out essential United Nations mandated activities.
- The presence of United Nations officials at any ceremonial or similar occasion that is attended by any such person should be avoided. Standard courtesy calls should not be made.
- When contacts are absolutely necessary, an attempt should be made, where possible, to interact with individuals of the same group or party who are not the subject of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant.

Commentary

1. As a general rule, there should be no meetings between United Nations officials and persons who are the subject of warrants of arrest issued by the International Criminal Court.

2. There should be no ceremonial meetings with such persons and standard courtesy calls should not be paid on them. The same holds true of receptions, photo opportunities, attendance at national day celebrations and so on.

3. If the person holds a position of authority in a State, every effort should be made to meet and liaise with individuals other than the person subject to a warrant of arrest in order to conduct business.

4. This being said, there may still be a need, in exceptional circumstances, to interact directly with a person who is the subject of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant. Where this is an imperative for the performance of essential United Nations mandated activities, direct interaction with such a person may take place to the extent necessary only.

5. The decision as to whether contact is strictly required in order to carry out United Nations mandated activities is an operational one, which is to be made in the light of a careful consideration of all the circumstances.

6. It may be important for the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, from time to time, to have direct contact with such a person, in order to address fundamental issues affecting the ability of the United Nations and its various offices, programmes and funds to carry out their mandates in the country concerned, including vital matters of security.

7. It can be anticipated that persons who are the subject of arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court may deliberately seek to meet with United Nations officials in order to demonstrate their contempt for the Court and try to undermine its authority. While the United Nations and the International Criminal Court are separate organizations, each with its own mandate, the two organizations share the objective of putting an end to impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern. Furthermore, the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court requires the United Nations to refrain from any actions that would frustrate the activities of the Court and its various organs, including the Prosecutor, or undermine the authority of their decisions.

(2) Persons subject to summonses to appear

- United Nations officials may interact without restrictions with persons who are the subject of a summons to appear issued by the International Criminal Court and who are cooperating with the Court.
- In the event that such a person ceases to cooperate with the Court and the Prosecutor seeks the issuance by the Court of a warrant for his/her arrest, the guidance on persons subject to warrants of arrest set out in (1) above should be followed.

Commentary

1. Interactions between United Nations officials and a person who is the subject of a summons to appear and who is complying with that summons and cooperating with the International Criminal Court may carry on without restrictions. Such interactions do not undermine the authority of the Court.

2. This changes if the person concerned ceases to comply with the summons and to cooperate with the Court.

(3) Information

- Information on which individuals are the subject of warrants of arrest and which are the subject of summonses to appear may be obtained from the website of the International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int) or from the focal point for the Court in the Office of Legal Affairs.

United Nations A/67/829–S/2013/222

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 April 2013
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 8 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

At noon today, 8 April 2013, Damascus witnessed yet another act of terrorism. A suicide bomber detonated a car bomb between the quarters of Sab' Bahrat and Shahbandar, in an area that is currently crowded with residents and busy with traffic. Thus far, 15 civilians and passers-by have been reported killed and 53 wounded, in addition to extensive material damage, particularly to the Salim Bukhari school building, the Bu'ayra mosque, civilian homes and passing or parked cars.

This latest terrorist atrocity follows a series of attacks from shells, mortars and indiscriminate weapons that have struck civilian institutions and areas in Damascus city over the last few days. In one particularly horrific crime, armed terrorist groups shelled the Architectural Engineering Faculty of Damascus University, causing 15 deaths and several severe injuries.

The suicide bombings and indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas in Damascus and many other regions of Syria have not spared educational, cultural, media, medical and religious institutions, or even humanitarian initiatives such as homes for orphans and persons with special needs. They illustrate the modus operandi of the armed terrorist groups, which receive substantial material and logistical support from States within and beyond the region, in addition to political backing which drives their contempt for any laws or limits and entrenches their confidence that they will not be held accountable for their actions, given the double standards of certain States in complying with their international counter-terrorism commitments.

Most recently, the resolution adopted by the League of Arab States on 26 March 2013 has encouraged the provision of funds and weapons to the terrorists,

thereby holding in contempt the international counter-terrorism obligations incumbent on all States. Owing to the hegemony of certain States, that organization has become a means to destabilize the region in violation of Articles 52 and 53 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Syrian Arab Republic recalls its previous letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. If the crisis in Syria is to be resolved through political means and on the basis of a comprehensive national dialogue, in accordance with the consensus of the international community, those States that support, train, arm and shelter armed terrorist groups must first and foremost desist from such practices, which violate their international obligations and the United Nations resolutions on combating and eradicating terrorism. Syria again demands that the Security Council should adopt a clear and resolute position, affirm its determination to combat terrorism and send a definite message to terrorists and their backers that the international community is genuinely committed to combating that scourge wherever and whenever it occurs.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that terrorists and murderers will not deter it from combating terrorism. The Syrian Arab Army will continue to fulfil its constitutional role by defending the nation's territorial integrity, sovereignty and institutions. The Syrian people in its entirety stands alongside it in rejecting the groups' criminal and destructive acts and their extremist ideas.

At the same time, the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to take the necessary genuine steps to implement the political programme put forward by President Bashar Al-Assad in order to resolve the crisis. That programme is based on national dialogue, which is the only way to emerge from the crisis and fulfil the aspirations of the Syrian people.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the
Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

United Nations A/67/830

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 April 2013

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 42
The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 1 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you with regard to the agenda of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in particular the item entitled: "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom and development". In conformity with decision 60/508, this item remains on the agenda for consideration only upon notification by a Member State. My delegation has made such notifications during the sixty-third, sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions in relation to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.

On the most recent occasion, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/181, whereby the membership took note with appreciation of the letter from the Secretary-General regarding the new developments related to the Commission (A/65/618), as well as the request of the Government of Guatemala to extend its mandate for an additional two years, until 3 September 2013. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to periodically keep the Assembly informed of the work of the Commission and the implementation of said resolution. The Commission recently launched its 2012-2013 workplan aimed at four strategic goals to implement its mandate and strengthen national institutions.

It is for this reason that we respectfully request that the agenda item "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development" again be activated during the sixty-seventh session, in order to consider recent developments of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala. My Government deems it timely to inform the General Assembly of the commitments met and progress achieved, not only in order to implement resolutions 58/239, 63/19, 64/7 and 65/181, but also because we believe that this initiative is of general interest to Member States. I also request that you have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Gert **Rosenthal**
Permanent Representative

Please recycle

United Nations A/67/831–S/2013/217

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 April 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 3 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the speech of the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, at the opening of the international conference on "Strengthening cooperation in preventing terrorism", held in Baku on 18 and 19 March 2013, and the Chair's summary of the conference (see annexes).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 105 of the agenda for its current session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-28744 (E) 180413

Please recycle

Annex I

Speech by the President of Azerbaijan at the opening of the international conference on "Strengthening cooperation in preventing terrorism" (Baku, 18 March 2013)

First of all, I want to welcome all of you to Azerbaijan and express my gratitude for the opportunity to participate in such an important conference. I express my appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for promoting this important initiative and conducting this conference in Baku.

In my opinion, the fact that this conference against terrorism is being held in Azerbaijan is quite symbolic because Azerbaijan has suffered from international terrorism in the past, while now our country is making a major contribution to the prevention of terrorism on a global scale. Unfortunately, in the early 1990s our country became the target of terrorist attacks by Armenian terrorist organizations. Azerbaijani citizens were subjected to numerous terrorist attacks, which claimed the lives of 2,000 innocent people. About as many people were wounded. Azerbaijan has been exposed to aggression and the occupation of its lands. As you may know, in many cases these events have been accompanied by aggressive separatism. Acts of aggressive separatism and terrorist attacks against Azerbaijan have led to the occupation of almost 20 per cent of the internationally recognized territory of our country. Moreover, Azerbaijan has been exposed to the policy of ethnic cleansing, as more than 1 million Azerbaijanis have been driven out of their homes.

As you know, the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is one of the biggest threats to regional stability and security. It is one of the greatest injustices in the world. The Security Council has adopted four resolutions demanding an unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territory. Unfortunately, these resolutions are not being implemented. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Parliament, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other international organizations have also adopted resolutions and decisions. Unfortunately, all these resolutions remain on paper. The internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan has been under occupation for more than 20 years.

As I noted, this poses the biggest threat to international and regional stability and security. This issue must be resolved on the basis of international law; specifically, with reference to the Helsinki Final Act. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored.

A settlement of the conflict must be based only on the norms and principles of international law. We are continuing our efforts towards a negotiated settlement of the conflict. Unfortunately, Armenia is trying to maintain the status quo as long as possible and to freeze the conflict to the maximum extent. However, this will not be possible because the world is changing and so is the regional balance. Azerbaijan is getting stronger in terms of political and economic development, and its role on the global scale is strengthening. Therefore, I am absolutely convinced that we will restore our territorial integrity. We want to achieve this as soon as possible. We strive to do this peacefully.

Our people have experienced one of the biggest tragedies of the twentieth century: the Khojaly genocide. On 26 February 1992, the Armenian armed forces attacked the residents of Khojaly. As a result of this villainous attack, 613 innocent civilians were killed, among them 100 women and 63 children. The parliaments of four countries have already officially recognized the Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide. The process of recognizing the Khojaly events as an act of genocide is under way in other countries as well.

Azerbaijan is an active contributor to the fight against terrorism. We strongly believe that the international community should, above all, give a clear definition of international terrorism. Through political moves and practical activities Azerbaijan is trying to actively contribute to the global fight against terrorism. We firmly believe that thanks to a consolidation of efforts by the international community we can succeed in this fight.

There can be no justification for terrorism. We must not make distinctions between terrorist organizations on the basis of who is targeted by acts of terrorism. Therefore, I believe that a broad consolidation of efforts and full cooperation against terrorism will help us get the upper hand in this fight.

I believe that one of the topics that will be discussed at this conference will be how the international community can operate more efficiently in the fight against terrorism. Because we know from history, as well as from the present, that no country in the world, no matter how well it is protected, can effectively combat terrorism on its own and be completely insured against terrorist attacks.

The world is changing. Unfortunately, malicious people too take advantage of modern technologies. I believe that the mobilization of efforts could become one of the most effective tools in the fight against terrorism, including its prevention. Terrorism poses a threat to the international community, to the territorial integrity of countries, to economic and democratic development. I think that keeping this important issue on the global agenda will help us to build up our efforts in this fight, step by step. Azerbaijan is doing everything possible to ensure that the international community keeps the issue in the spotlight. For example, it is holding this conference in Baku. In addition, Azerbaijan dedicated its first presidency of the Security Council in May last year specifically to the subject of combating terrorism. For the first time, in May 2012 Azerbaijan presided over the Security Council. We declared open the ongoing discussion on the fight against terrorism. We chose this topic from among all the other issues on the agenda because we believed that focusing on this theme was more important.

If we do not effectively and selflessly struggle against terrorism, we cannot resolve any of the other issues we face. I remember the early years of our independence. At that time, the Armenians launched a series of terrorist attacks against our citizens in Baku and elsewhere. There was no stability. And where there is no stability, there can be no development. We know that from our own experience only too well. Political stability was established in Azerbaijan only in the mid-1990s. We began to develop, to attract investment, to modernize our economy and the political system and to establish a democratic system in Azerbaijan.

Unfortunately, terrorism has become part of daily life in countries affected by international terrorism. Under such circumstances, no one can talk about development. Under such circumstances, no investment is made and no reforms are

conducted. There is no democratic development because countries subjected to international terrorism have to fight back. And this has very dangerous implications. Therefore, preventing or reducing the threat of terrorism is the first major condition for development. This is why we chose this theme among all the other important topics on the international agenda and raised it at the Security Council. As a result of our initiative, a very important declaration was adopted. I believe that this declaration promotes and will continue to promote the mobilization of efforts. Without a consolidation of efforts, no country can succeed in the fight against terrorism.

I am very glad that representatives and experts from more than 50 countries and international organizations have come to Azerbaijan today. This is the international community. This is our response to such an important international issue. This is our contribution. I think that we must certainly approach this issue from different angles. We need to enhance our practical contribution to the fight against terrorism. Azerbaijan is making a strong contribution to the fight against terrorism at the international level and beyond. We must constantly keep this issue on the agenda and raise it at various international forums. At the same time, we have to use all available mechanisms to eliminate the conditions conducive to the emergence of terrorism. We need to narrow the scope of activities of terrorist organizations. We must work together to bridge the gaps that can create the conditions for people, in particular those with no education, to become involved in terrorist organizations.

This is where we come to another important issue. It is the issue of a peaceful coexistence of peoples. Unfortunately, while reading the international press, we see that sometimes attempts are made to link terrorism to Islam. There is some concern in the Muslim world over the growing Islamophobia. I think that the international community, in particular representatives of the media and non-governmental organizations, should act more responsibly and not hurt the feelings of hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world.

Terrorism has neither religion nor nationality. Regardless of the nationality and religion of individuals, all of humanity is suffering from terrorism. I think that this is one of the important issues that must always be in the spotlight. Without joining efforts, we cannot resolve this problem properly.

An important element in the global fight against terrorism is the promotion of ideas of multiculturalism. I think that given the current status of international relations, we must always pay attention to this issue. Azerbaijan is trying to ensure that multiculturalism is always on the agenda. We have conducted numerous international events, conferences and forums in Azerbaijan, where multiculturalism and related positive experiences have been discussed. We are aware of the different ideas being voiced in different societies and political circles these days. It is said that multiculturalism has failed or is moving towards a precipice. In my view, we should be very careful in making such assessments because there is no alternative to multiculturalism in this globalizing world. It is hard to imagine what alternative to multiculturalism there could be. For centuries, humankind has evolved, generations have replaced one another, but multiculturalism has mainly developed during the modern age. Therefore, we cannot back down from the results already achieved.

Azerbaijan is a country where representatives of different ethnicities and religions live in peace and friendship. This is an excellent example of how

multiculturalism is not moving towards a precipice. Multiculturalism is strengthening. It is especially important to recall that in the past we were part of other countries. And being part of these countries and empires, we communicated with people belonging to different nationalities and religions. In the Soviet Union, and even before that, a commitment to these ideas was seen as natural. But Azerbaijan has been an independent country for more than 20 years. I think that the ideas of multiculturalism and the essence of what is happening in Azerbaijan are good examples of our State policy in the years of independence and of the overall atmosphere in our society.

It is impossible to achieve such results through public policies alone. As far as we are concerned, we are very happy with the fact that the atmosphere in our society and Government policies serve the same purpose. The development of conditions conducive to peace and friendship between all nations and religions in Azerbaijan are among our goals. Our country is the home of all those who live here. This is our policy. It is a policy that will continue to be supported and that will grow further in the future. I am confident that the successes we have achieved in this area will have and are already having an impact on Azerbaijan and beyond.

One of the main issues in an effective fight against terrorism is education. As I said at the beginning of my remarks, terrorist organizations use uneducated people. They use young people who cannot read and write, they poison their brains, conduct propaganda and take young people down the wrong path.

Unfortunately, in some parts of the world, we see backwardness instead of development in terms of education and social issues. Sometimes, social injustice is an impetus to terrorism and the emergence of terrorist organizations. International terrorist organizations use all the shortcomings in society and try to attract as many people as possible in order to poison their brains. Therefore, education is key in the fight against terrorism. Azerbaijan attaches great importance and attention to education. The level of literacy in our country is 100 per cent. Our young people are educated and knowledgeable. We are open to the world. We have freedom of the media and all the other freedoms. We have a free Internet. Not all the countries of the world can be proud of having uncensored access to the Internet. Today, over 70 per cent of the population of Azerbaijan uses the Internet.

We invest heavily in information and communications technologies. At present, we have embarked on the implementation of a State programme to take broadband Internet to every city. This programme will be implemented over several years. In February, Azerbaijan launched into orbit its first telecommunications satellite and joined the group of countries with a space industry. Education, modern technologies and communication among young people from different countries can play an important role in that.

Of course, there is also the issue of poverty reduction. This factor is important in the fight against terrorism, in particular in poor countries. Referring again to our experience, I can say that we have made great strides in reducing poverty. In general, the economic development of Azerbaijan over the past 10 years looks very impressive. In the last 10 years our economy has been one of the fastest growing in the world. The gross domestic product (GDP) has grown threefold, while poverty has dropped from 50 per cent 10 years ago to 6 per cent according to the statistical indicators for 2012.

More than 1,100,000 jobs have been created in Azerbaijan, where the overall economic situation is quite stable. During the years of the global economic recession, our economy continued to grow. At present, the structure of the country's GDP is worthy of approval: the share of GDP that comes from the non-energy sector is growing rapidly — last year it was 10 per cent — and our foreign debt amounts to only 7 per cent of GDP.

International rating agencies — the three main ones being Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's — have downgraded the ratings of some developed countries, while the credit rating of Azerbaijan has been upgraded. The reduction of poverty and unemployment has been a major contributor to the overall development of Azerbaijan over the last 10 years. I am confident that in the coming years we will succeed in completely eliminating poverty.

I think that in order to properly address these issues in every society and in every country, as I said earlier, we should not forget the principle of social justice. Social justice and the rule of law mean tranquillity for every society. All these are important elements for eliminating the original conditions conducive to an atmosphere of terror. In recent years, we have certainly made an effort to strengthen our independence and to reinforce our law enforcement agencies. Within Azerbaijan, we have practically eliminated all potential terrorist threats. Therefore, we are now investing more in strengthening the border infrastructure.

As I have already said, no country is fully immune from the threat of terrorism. This is especially true for countries that are not located on islands, that are surrounded by neighbours and are located in regions where peace has not been entirely secured. Therefore, investments in the border infrastructure and effective border control are our top priority issues in the fight against terrorism in the region. There are no domestic sources of terrorism in our country that can cause concern.

I am sure that there will be extensive discussions today, that opinions will be expressed on how we can organize ourselves so that we can fight more efficiently and make this world a safer place, and that an exchange of experiences will be conducted.

Once again I welcome all the guests. I do hope that you will spend your time in Azerbaijan fruitfully. I wish the conference every success. Thank you very much.

Annex II

Chair's summary of the international conference on "Strengthening cooperation in preventing terrorism, held in Baku on 18 and 19 March 2013

The international conference on "Strengthening cooperation in preventing terrorism" was held in Baku on 18 and 19 March 2013 under the patronage of the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev. The conference, which was jointly organized by the Government of Azerbaijan, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, was chaired by Azerbaijan.

In his opening speech, President Aliyev stressed that terrorism poses a great threat to international peace and security, to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and socioeconomic development of all States and to the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. He spoke of contributions made by Azerbaijan to international cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism, mentioned the high-level meeting of the Security Council on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, held on 4 May 2012 during Azerbaijan's presidency of the Council, and called for closer international cooperation. He emphasized the importance of education, promoting multiculturalism and mutual understanding, economic development and poverty reduction in eradicating terrorism.

A high-level session was organized in which ministers, heads of international organizations and senior personalities participated.

The conference focused on the following themes: cooperation in developing and undertaking measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; dialogue, understanding and countering stereotypes and the appeal of terrorism; and the role of international partners in building State capacity to prevent and combat terrorism.

The participants in the conference reaffirmed all the resolutions of the United Nations on combating terrorism and reiterated their strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. The participants underlined the importance of the full and timely implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions and of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

It was the prevailing view among the participants that all acts of terrorism should be condemned as heinous crimes and that those who commit them must be prosecuted. In this context, they condemned the glorification of perpetrators of terrorist acts.

Given the nexus between terrorism and other threats to international peace and stability, the participants underlined that preventing terrorism requires close international cooperation and sustained efforts towards an effective, coordinated, balanced and systematic approach by the international community. The participants were unanimous in affirming that the scourge of terrorism can only be defeated by a comprehensive approach involving States, international and regional organizations and civil society.

The participants reiterated the obligation of States to refrain from providing any form of support to entities or persons involved in or associated with terrorist acts.

Armed conflicts, poverty, social exclusion, lack of education, human rights violations and attacks on religious and cultural values were mentioned as factors that could be conducive to the spread of terrorism.

In particular, it was emphasized that conflicts between States, foreign military aggression and aggressive separatism create conditions favourable for terrorism. In this respect, the participants maintained that areas of armed conflicts, particularly territories under foreign occupation that remain outside the legal constitutional order, provide a safe haven for international terrorism. The participants also expressed deep concern about the illegal economic activities taking place in these territories, which can be used for financing terrorist activities. In this regard, the participants maintained that crisis and conflict situations must be addressed decisively on the basis of norms and principles of international law, most notably of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States restoring constitutional order in conflict-affected territories.

The participants underlined the importance of addressing economic and social development and education with a view to encouraging deradicalization and diminishing the possibilities of individuals being recruited for terrorist activities.

The participants also underlined that any measure taken to combat terrorism must comply with the norms and principles of international law, including those related to human rights and international humanitarian law. They underscored, in this regard, that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for the norms and principles of international law, including those related to human rights, fundamental freedoms and rule of law are mutually reinforcing.

The participants underscored that fighting terrorism cannot be used to justify attacks on a particular religion or culture. They expressed concern at increasing cases of blasphemy, in particular in connection with Islamophobia, and maintained the importance of engaging in joint efforts and dialogue to prevent such defamatory and erroneous concepts.

Participants reaffirmed that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, ethnicity or civilization. In this regard, the need for raising religious awareness among the public with a view to preventing conflicts on ethnic, religious and cultural grounds was emphasized.

Participants stressed the importance of having respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world and emphasized that continuing international efforts were needed to promote multiculturalism and broaden understanding among civilizations so as to contribute to strengthening the international fight against terrorism. In this respect, they expressed their appreciation for the positive role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and other similar initiatives.

While acknowledging the importance of modern information and communications technologies, including the Internet, to promote dialogue and understanding among people, the participants expressed concern about the increase in cases of misuse of such technologies, in particular the Internet, for malign

purposes, such as recruitment and incitement, as well as for the financing, planning and preparation of terrorist activities, and stressed the importance of closer international cooperation in this regard.

The participants maintained that the absence of a clear definition of terrorism in international law does not help international efforts to combat terrorism, and underscored the importance of reaching agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

The participants extended their sincere gratitude to President Aliyev for his patronage of the conference, for the generous hospitality and kind reception and for the facilities provided by the Government of Azerbaijan. They also extended their gratitude and appreciation to the co-organizers of the conference and stressed the importance of following up on the conference with continued political consultations and practical actions.

United Nations A/67/832

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 April 2013
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 45
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 9 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to write to you with reference to the letter dated 17 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations (A/67/703), circulated in reply to the letter dated 3 January 2013 from Argentina (A/67/688).

The Argentine Republic rejects each and every one of the affirmations contained in the aforementioned British reply and reaffirms the statements made in its note dated 19 September 2012 (A/67/389). The British Government is once again seeking to legitimize its position on the question of the Malvinas Islands by misrepresenting historical facts with the firm intention of ignoring the act of usurpation that it committed in 1833, which, since the time of its commission, has been and remains the subject of continuous and repeated protests by the Argentine Government.

In its letter, the Government of the United Kingdom makes no mention of the 32 Spanish governors who held jurisdiction over the Malvinas Islands from 1774 to 1811 or of the various jurisdictional actions performed by the Governments of the Argentine Republic since its independence from Spain, which demonstrate the exercise of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas and were carried out without any British protest. In particular, the letter makes no mention of the treaty on friendship and navigation between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom, concluded in 1825, the text of which does not contain any reservation in respect of Argentine jurisdictional acts over the disputed archipelagos, as well as several other treaties that support Spain's rights over the aforementioned islands, and therefore those of Argentina as its successor in application of the principle of *uti possidetis juris*.

Argentina recognizes the principle of the self-determination of peoples in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which grants this right to peoples subjected to alien subjugation, domination and

Please recycle

exploitation. As that characterization does not apply to the question of the Malvinas Islands, this question has been defined as a special and particular case of decolonization involving a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom that must be resolved in a peaceful and negotiated manner, taking due account of the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands. As clearly set out in the aforementioned resolution, any attempt to disrupt the territorial integrity of a State must be understood as an act that is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Thus, it is the United Kingdom that is departing from the principles of the Charter of the United Nations since Argentina continually calls on the United Kingdom to cease its efforts to disrupt Argentina's territorial integrity and to agree to comply with the letter of the Charter, Article 33 of which requires every member of the international community to settle its disputes by peaceful means. This exchange of letters merely demonstrates that the dispute exists, that it is ongoing and that it therefore requires a negotiated settlement between Argentina and the United Kingdom in accordance with the United Nations mandate and with the international community's numerous urgings to that end.

Nevertheless, the United Kingdom has unilaterally called for a vote of the settlers that it implanted in the Malvinas Islands in order to consult them on issues that seek to misrepresent the true legal status of these Islands, ignoring the international call to resume sovereignty negotiations with Argentina as soon as possible. Argentina's position on this is clear and conclusive and is reflected in Ministry of Foreign Affairs press release No. 041/13 of 8 March 2013 (see annex).

The Argentine Government once again reiterates its invitation to the United Kingdom to resume bilateral sovereignty negotiations, which are the only means internationally recognized as legitimate, with a view to a peaceful and definitive solution to the question of the Malvinas Islands.

Reaffirming the Argentine Republic's legitimate rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, I request that you have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45 concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) María Cristina **Perceval**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 9 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

A further attempt by the British to manipulate the question of the Malvinas Islands (Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs press release No. 041/13 of 8 March 2013)

The United Kingdom has called for a vote by the inhabitants that it implanted in the Malvinas Islands in order to consult them on issues that seek to misrepresent the true legal status of these islands. The Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina that has been recognized by the two countries and by the international community as a whole. Therefore, the United Kingdom has no right to seek to alter the legal status of these territories, even under the guise of a hypothetical "referendum".

Instead of complying with its international obligations by resuming negotiations with Argentina in order to resolve this dispute, the British Government — in an attitude that clearly demonstrates the unfounded nature of its claim and, above all, its lack of good faith — is seeking to introduce distorting elements aimed at changing the definition of this dispute under international law as reflected in repeated pronouncements by the international community. Aware of its international isolation with regard to the question of the Malvinas Islands, the United Kingdom is clearly attempting to misrepresent its dispute with Argentina rather than resolving it.

However, the United Kingdom cannot modify the dispute at will. This vote, like the myriad other polls or votes that the United Kingdom could contrive in the disputed territories involved in the question of the Malvinas Islands, cannot have such an outcome, nor can it relieve that country of its obligation under international law to resolve its sovereignty dispute with Argentina peacefully by resuming negotiations.

The United Nations and numerous regional organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), as well as other international and biregional forums such as the Group of 77 and China, the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Africa-South America Summit, the South American and Arab Countries Summit and the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, have urged the United Kingdom and Argentina to resume these negotiations precisely in order to resolve this dispute.

The Argentine Constitution specifically protects the way of life of the population of the Malvinas Islands, and General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) calls on the two parties to the dispute, Argentina and the United Kingdom, to bear in mind the interests of that population. In light of this mandate, the Argentine Republic regrets these initiatives by the United Kingdom, which are irresponsible and lacking in good faith, and urges it to seriously reconsider its policy of providing misinformation regarding the legal and political situation of the disputed territory that it occupies.

This British initiative is not supported by any of the 40 United Nations resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands, which is considered to be a special and particular case of decolonization in which the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom must be resolved through bilateral negotiations, taking into account the interests (not the wishes) of the inhabitants of the Islands. On two occasions in 1985, the General Assembly expressly rejected British proposals to incorporate the principle of self-determination into the draft resolution on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

Moreover, the conduct of the United Kingdom has been inconsistent with the principle of the self-determination of peoples, which it alleges to be applicable to the question of the Malvinas Islands. Its disingenuous invocation of the aforementioned principle on this question contrasts with its position in other cases of decolonization, such as that of the Chagos Archipelago, in which it expelled the native inhabitants and, even now, continues to deny them the right of return to their land. Nor did the British Government seek the opinion of the inhabitants of Hong Kong when it returned that territory to its legitimate owner, the People's Republic of China.

This new British attempt to manipulate the question of the Malvinas Islands through a vote by the population that it implanted in those Islands has been firmly rejected by the Argentine Republic and by, among others, the UNASUR and MERCOSUR countries, since this attempt will neither alter the essence of the question nor put an end to the sovereignty dispute, which must be resolved in accordance with international law and with the many United Nations resolutions on the issue.

United Nations A/67/833–S/2013/224

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 43
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 9 April 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 9 April 2013, addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Levent **Eler**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

13-28831 (E) 160413

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 9 April 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 11 March 2013 and 5 April 2013, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as documents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/67/791-S/2013/157 and A/67/827-S/2013/219), which yet again contain well-known claims of "infringements of international air traffic regulations and violation of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" and to bring to your kind attention the following.

In response to such pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full consent and knowledge of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. It must be stated that assertions of so-called violations of air traffic regulations are unfounded, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace.

As noted in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and unlawful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory and national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious contention by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the realities prevailing on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

Continuous attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration are futile since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed be conducive to a better atmosphere on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop misappropriating for itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease its hostile and derogatory acts against the Turkish Cypriot people.

Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should also be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its insistent denial of the Turkish Cypriot rights in the North of the island does not bode well for the prospects of finding a lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with two Constituent States of equal status.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to put on record, once again, that the Turkish Cypriot side is ready for the earliest commencement of the full-fledged negotiations between the two leaders within the context of a result-oriented process. It is our considered view that if our sincere and constructive approach is reciprocated by the Greek Cypriot side, long-overdue settlement of the Cyprus problem is achievable in the shortest possible time. We hope that the new Greek

Cypriot leadership will show the necessary political will for a fair and durable settlement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dâná**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/67/834–S/2013/226

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2013
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 54
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 11 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

In yet another violation of their commitments under the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement, on 2 April 2013 at 9.15 p.m., the Israeli occupation forces targeted a Syrian military position in the village of Bi'r Ajam, Qunaytirah governorate. They launched two mortar shells from the occupied position of Tall Abu al-Dhahab, which were followed by several 23-millimetre-calibre machine gun salvos, killing three soldiers and wounding another.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic demands an end to those provocative Israeli acts of aggression, which followed a similar Israeli attack on 18 November 2012. Israel must be prevailed upon to comply with the 1974 Agreement in order to counteract the growing risk of tension, escalation and confrontation in the area.

The Syrian Arab Republic recalls that those practices, which coincide with Israel's provision of direct support to the armed terrorist groups deployed in the area of disengagement, raises further legitimate questions regarding the extent of Israel's commitment to the Agreement and the preservation of peace and security in the area and the Middle East as a whole.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

13-28837 (E) 120413 120413

Please recycle

United Nations A/67/835–S/2013/227

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 April 2013
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 11 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

On 7 April 2013, websites associated with the Al-Qaida organization posted an audio recording in which the leader of the organization, Aiman al-Zawahiri, addressed the armed men in Syria, saying, "the fruit of your jihad should be an Islamic State waging jihad, which would be a building block for the return of the righteous Caliphate". His statement urged them to "rally around the watchword of the one God and to struggle in the path of God in order for His law to prevail".

Al-Zawahiri's call met with a swift response from Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Al-Qaida organization in Iraq, "Organization for an Islamic State in Iraq". On 9 April 2013, he said, "the Nusrah Front is fighting to build an Islamic State in Syria", and made the following revelation: "the Nusrah Front is only an extension and a part of Islamic State of Iraq". He stated that the leader of the Nusrah Front, the Al-Qaida operative Abu Muhammad al-Jawlani, had been sent with several combatants to fight in the Levant. In his audio message, which was posted on the websites of terrorist organizations, Al-Baghdadi announced that the organization Islamic State of Iraq had merged with the Nusrah Front to form an organization named Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

On 10 April, websites associated with terrorist organizations disseminated an audio recording of the manager of the Nusrah Front in Iraq and the Levant, Abu Muhammad al-Jawlani, in which he announced, "the sons of the Nusrah Front and their manager swear allegiance to the shaykh of jihad Aiman al-Zawahiri and are at his command".

These statements from the leadership of the Al-Qaida organization underscore the concerns raised by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in numerous letters to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the

13-28940 (E) 150413 160413

Please recycle

Security Council, namely, that the activities of the armed terrorist groups are connected with the Al-Qaida organization; that their crimes in Syria represent a threat; that the organization Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant, an Al-Qaida affiliate, controls those criminal activities; and that their shedding of Syrian blood is motivated by obscurantist ideology and *takfirist* fatwas, which exonerate the actions of the group and of allied extremist groups known as the Islamic Battalions.

Although the terrorist organizations' attacks have been documented in letters from the Syrian Government to the United Nations, certain States have prevented the Security Council from condemning the numerous terrorist crimes for which the Nusrah Front has claimed responsibility. In so doing, they have created an incentive for the terrorists to persist in targeting Syrian civilians with suicide bombings and random mortar fire. In keeping with Al-Qaida's terrorist tactics elsewhere, the attacks have not spared residential buildings, hospitals, Islamic and Christian places of worship, or State institutions that provide services and education.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its warnings of the risk that the international community courts by disregarding the *takfirist* terrorist crimes that are linked to Al-Qaida and carried out by the Nusrah Front and its allies from the Islamic Battalions, as well as by the so-called Free Syrian Army, many components of which recently announced their allegiance to the Nusrah Front, and by ignoring the fact that numerous States, within and outside the region, including, most prominently, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Turkey, are contravening their legal undertakings in respect of counter-terrorism and, in particular, Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), by providing material and logistical support, arms and training, and by harbouring those terrorist groups. Such disregard will promote the spread of terrorism within and beyond the whole Middle Eastern region and will be responsible for the escalation of the activities of terrorist groups allied to Al-Qaida, which does not recognize State borders as an impediment to its terrorist crimes.

The Syrian Arab Republic, having completed the requisite procedures, has submitted a request for the Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant to be included on the Consolidated List established and maintained by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) with respect to individuals, groups, undertakings and other entities associated with Al-Qaida. The Syrian Government hopes that measures will be taken forthwith in response to its request and that the Security Council will play the role with which it is entrusted, namely, to uphold international peace and security, by bringing pressure to bear on the States that are supporting terrorism in Syria to end those illegal practices and cease their attempts in regional and international organizations to impose decisions that are designed to disguise their activities in support of terrorism. The final report issued by the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011) concerning Libya includes information on the illicit transfer of arms to Syria in order to support the armed terrorist groups there, using various networks and paths, including through Turkey and northern Lebanon, and refers to such specific events as the seizure in the Lebanese port of Tripoli of the vessel *Lutfalla 2*, to the vessel *Al-Intisar*, the circumstances of which are referred to in the aforementioned report, and the role of the Government of Turkey in providing legal cover. It provides new indications as to the involvement of such States as Qatar, Libya and Turkey in financing and facilitating the passage of arms shipments destined for terrorist groups inside Syria. Furthermore, there have been many reports by the international media on successive flights to a neighbouring country, with the aim of transferring to the terrorists

sophisticated weapons that are funded by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Those weapons have recently been seen to be delivered to the terrorist organizations, particularly in the southern governorate of Dar'a.

The Syrian Government, in bringing these facts to the attention of the Security Council, asks it to shoulder its responsibilities, in accordance with the counter-terrorism-related Security Council resolutions, and demand that the States that are involved in supporting terrorism in Syria should cease their infractions, which imperil security and peace in Syria, the whole region and the world.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

United Nations A/67/836

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 April 2013

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 75 (a)
Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Note verbale dated 14 March 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General, and has the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia dated 2 March 2013 addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex).

The letter was issued in response to the letter dated 14 August 2012 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/762, annex I) regarding the baselines of marine areas of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Arabian Gulf.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requests that the present note and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a). The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also requests that the document be published in the next edition of the Law of the Sea Bulletin, in accordance to the regulations of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

13-28957 (E) 150413 150413

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 14 March 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and would like to refer to note No. 692 dated 14 August 2012, that was addressed to him by the Islamic Republic of Iran, concerning the maritime baselines of Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Arabian Gulf which were deposited with the United Nations on 4 Rabi' II A.H. 1431 (25 March A.D. 2010) and referred to in its earlier note, No. 1596, dated 22 December 2010.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes that the maritime baselines of Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Arabian Gulf, which were determined by Saudi Council of Ministers decision No. 15 dated 25 Muharram A.H. 1431 (11 January A.D. 2010), and ratified by Royal Decree No. M/4 dated 26 Muharram A.H. 1431 (12 January A.D. 2010), are fully consistent with the rules of international law and State practice.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

United Nations A/67/837

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 April 2013

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 146
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2012

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2012 (A/67/739). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 5 April 2013.

2. In paragraphs 1 to 6 of his report, the Secretary-General provides an update on the cash position of the 24 closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2012. He indicates that, as at that date, 19 of the 24 closed missions had cash surpluses available for credit to Member States totalling approximately $28.2 million (see table 2), and five closed missions had cash deficits totalling $86.7 million owing to outstanding payments of assessed contributions (see tables 3 and 4). The net cash balance in closed peacekeeping missions available for credit to Member States as at the same date amounted to $28.2 million (see table 1). The Secretary-General explains, in paragraph 4, that the cash balance does not take into account the $10.8 million owed by closed missions to other closed missions and $51.0 million owed by three active missions to closed missions.

3. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that as at 25 February 2013, the net cash available for credit to Member States had increased to $46.7 million following the repayment of some $18.5 million owed by active peacekeeping missions, lowering the amount owed by active peacekeeping missions to $32.5 million. **The Committee expects that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/293, the cash surplus available for credit to Member States will be returned in full and in a timely manner (see also para. 6 below).**

13-29051 (E) 180413

Please recycle

II. Outstanding dues to Member States from closed missions

4. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 65/293, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit for its consideration and approval concrete proposals and alternatives to address the issue of outstanding dues to Member States from closed peacekeeping missions that are in net cash deficit. The Secretary-General discusses the issue in paragraphs 7 to 10 of his report and offers a new proposal to address it. The proposal entails using the total cash assets available in all closed missions, amounting to $262.5 million, to settle liabilities amounting to $258.8 million, comprising amounts still due to Member States in closed missions with cash surpluses ($182.9 million); outstanding claims owed to troop-contributing countries in closed missions with cash deficits ($63.1 million); and the amount owed to the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund ($12.8 million) (see table 5).

5. **The Advisory Committee recognizes that the Secretary-General's proposal could help to resolve the long-outstanding issue of unpaid claims to troop-contributing countries. The Committee notes, however, that the bulk of the outstanding claims relate to closed missions in cash deficit, whereas the funds proposed by the Secretary-General to settle the claims are in closed missions with cash surpluses, which, as a matter of principle, should be returned to Member States. In this regard, the Committee reiterates the view that implementing such a proposal would mean utilizing resources due to Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full to meet the financial obligations to the Organization of Member States that have not paid their assessed contributions (A/66/713, para. 11).**

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General's proposal did not include the settlement of the amount of $10.8 million owed by two closed peacekeeping missions in deficit to closed peacekeeping missions with cash surpluses because the amount represented cross-borrowings between closed missions. This amount was therefore not necessary to settle the overall amounts owed to Member States. The Committee was further informed that the settlement of the $10.8 million would depend on the receipt of payments from Member States that are in arrears in their payments to those closed peacekeeping missions. Upon further enquiry, the Committee was provided with the list of amounts, totalling $81.5 million, owed in respect of claims from troop-contributing countries as at 30 June 2012. The total comprises $63.1 million owed to troop-contributing countries by closed missions in net cash deficit and $18.4 million owed to troop-contributing countries by closed missions with cash surpluses. **The Committee recalls the repeated calls by the General Assembly for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions (see resolution 65/293). In that regard, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to use his good offices and engage Member States in seeking to resolve the issue of unpaid contributions.**

III. Cash requirements of the Organization

7. The Secretary-General discusses the cash requirements of the Organization in paragraphs 11 to 13 of his report and indicates that cash surpluses of closed missions are being used to alleviate the cash shortages of active peacekeeping missions because of the unpredictability of the receipt of assessed contributions. He

further states that the time lag between the issuance of notifications to Member States and the receipt of assessed contributions often ranges from 60 to 120 days. Pending the payment of assessed contributions, any cash shortfalls for active missions are met from loans from closed peacekeeping missions.

8. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information showing that, as at 30 June 2012, the average duration of loans from closed missions to active peacekeeping missions was 5.5 months (see annex I). The Committee notes that during the same period, the cumulative amount borrowed from closed missions by active missions grew from $30 million in 2009/10 to $89 million in 2010/11 to $118 million in 2011/12. The Committee further notes that the level of borrowing peaked at $81 million in August 2011. Taking into account the loans repaid in the same period, the Committee notes that the amount owed by active missions to closed missions stood at $51.0 million as at 30 June 2012 (see annex II) and $32.5 million as at 25 February 2013. **The Committee is concerned about the continuing reliance on surpluses in closed peacekeeping missions for the cash requirements of active missions. In this regard, the Committee reiterates the importance of delinking the cash flow requirements of active peacekeeping missions from the cash surpluses in closed missions that should be returned to Member States (A/66/713, para. 6).**

9. In order to address the issue of cash shortages in active peacekeeping missions, the Secretary-General, in paragraph 13 of his report, proposes that the General Assembly authorize temporary borrowing between active peacekeeping missions, which is currently not permitted according to the terms of the Assembly's resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations. He argues that his proposal is not expected to have a negative impact on the operations of any active peacekeeping mission, as past data on the cash requirements of active missions show that their temporary requirements for cross-borrowing have consistently been relatively minor compared with the total cash position of all active peacekeeping operations at any point in time. **The Advisory Committee is concerned that the Secretary-General's proposal provides no details as to the criteria, amounts and duration of any such borrowings between active missions.**

10. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the inherent unpredictability of the payment of contributions and the lack of any discernible pattern in the volume and timing of cross-borrowings in the past made it impossible to set any definite limits on either the volume or the duration of the proposed inter-mission borrowing. The Committee was also informed that the borrowings would be authorized by the Controller on a case-by-case basis, based on a regular review of the forecasted cash requirements of each peacekeeping mission and the anticipated receipt of assessed contributions. It was also indicated that, in line with current practice, no interest would be charged on such inter-mission borrowings.

11. **The Advisory Committee recognizes that the Secretary-General's proposal, by allowing the utilization of cash surpluses of active peacekeeping missions, could help to address the cash shortfalls of other active peacekeeping missions, hence breaking the reliance on the cash surpluses of closed missions. Such a measure would allow the return to Member States of cash surpluses in closed missions, which are currently retained in order to manage the cash shortfalls in active peacekeeping operations.**

12. **The Advisory Committee is of the view, however, that the approval of borrowing among active missions without limits and safeguards, even if the amounts are small relative to the total cash position of active missions, would not be prudent. Moreover, the Committee cautions that the proposal could be an inducement to the late payment of assessed contributions. Furthermore, the Committee notes that the Secretary-General's proposal does not address its reservations with regard to utilizing resources due to Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full and on time to meet the financial obligations to the Organization of Member States that have not paid their assessed contributions in a timely manner.**

13. During its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee requested information to help it determine how much of the cash balance available in closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2012 was attributable to interest income. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat was not in a position to determine how much of the $211.5 million cash balance was attributable to interest income because it comprised balances from several sources and time periods, which had gone through several cash returns to Member States. Therefore, the ties between the cash balance and its original sources could not be established.

14. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information showing that, of the total amount of $22.04 billion that had been assessed on all closed peacekeeping missions for the duration of their respective mandates, contributions totalling $21.62 billion had been received as at 30 June 2012. The information also showed that the cumulative interest income earned from the total contributions as at the same date amounted to $550.8 million.

15. The Advisory Committee enquired as to what actions had been taken with regard to its earlier suggestion on interest earned and interest accrued (A/66/713, para. 12). The Committee was informed that the Secretariat had not proposed any changes to the financial regulations pertaining to interest earned and interest accrued insofar as they relate to cash balances and possible interest on cash loaned internally, because the General Assembly had not indicated its position on the matter. It was also noted by the representatives of the Secretary-General that an earlier proposal to charge interest on unpaid assessed contributions had not been approved by the Assembly (A/60/846/Add.3) and consequently interest was not being charged on outstanding assessments receivable from Member States or accrued on outstanding amounts payable to Member States. **The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to consult with other United Nations system entities in order to determine what lessons can be drawn from their experience in managing unpaid assessments.**

16. **In addition to the proposals contained in the report currently under consideration, the Advisory Committee recalls past proposals to address the cash requirements of peacekeeping missions, such as applying available credits against outstanding contributions and expanding the terms of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund to cover the operational requirements of ongoing missions (A/65/556, para. 12). The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to review those proposals in view of the continued borrowing by active peacekeeping missions and also consider other possible alternatives, such as the feasibility of establishing a working capital fund for peacekeeping missions. The Committee further recommends that the**

Secretary-General be requested to report on all proposals, including a more detailed version of his proposal to allow borrowing between active missions, in his next report on closed peacekeeping missions.

IV. Recommendations

17. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General. **In view of its comments and observations in the preceding paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly approve the retention of the net cash balance of $28.2 million available in 19 closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2012. The Committee further recommends that the updated cash balance be provided to the Assembly at the time of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General.**

Annex I

Loans from closed missions for the three-year period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012

(Millions of United States dollars)

Loan							
To	*From*	*Amount*	*Amount repaid*	*Closing balance, 30 June 2012*	*Month loaned*	*Month repaid*	*Months outstanding until 30 June 2012*
Loans to closed missions							
MINURCA	UNMIH	3.2	–	3.2	August 1999	–	148
MINURCA	UNPF	0.2	–	0.2	August 1999	–	148
UNSMIH	UNMIH	7.4	–	7.4	August 1999	–	148
Total		**10.8**	**–**	**10.8**			**444**
Average duration of loans as at 30 June 2012							**148.0**
Loans to active missions							
UNOMIG	UNPF	2.0	2.0	–	December 2008	October 2009	10
UNOMIG	UNPF	3.0	3.0	–	September 2009	March 2010	6
MINURSO	UNPF	2.5	2.5	–	August 2008	October 2009	14
MINURSO	UNPF	4.0	4.0	–	January 2009	October 2009	9
MINURSO	UNPF	3.5	3.5	–	February 2009	October 2009	8
MINURSO	UNPF	6.0	6.0	–	April 2009	March 2010	11
MINURSO	UNPF	4.5	4.5	–	December 2009	September 2010	9
MINURSO	UNPF	3.5	3.5	–	January 2010	September 2010	8
MINURSO	UNPF	4.0	4.0	–	February 2010	September 2010	7
MINURSO	UNPF	6.4	6.4	–	August 2010	September 2010	1
MINURSO	UNPF	3.5	3.5	–	January 2011	September 2011	8
MINURSO	UNPF	3.0	3.0	–	February 2011	September 2011	7
MINURSO	UNPF	4.5	4.5	–	April 2011	September 2011	5
MINURSO	UNPF	4.0	4.0	–	May 2011	September 2011	4
MINURSO	UNPF	5.5	5.5	–	June 2011	September 2011	3
MINURSO	UNPF	2.5	2.5	–	July 2011	September 2011	2
MINURSO	UNPF	5.5	5.5	–	July 2011	October 2011/ June 2012	11
MINURSO	UNPF	5.0	1.0	4.0	November 2011	June 2012	7
MINURSO	UNPF	6.5	–	6.5	February 2012	–	4
MINURSO	UNAMIR	6.0	–	6.0	June 2012	–	–
UNMIK	UNPF	6.5	6.5	–	February 2011	September 2011	7
UNMIK	UNPF	7.0	6.5	0.5	April 2011	September 2011	5
UNMIK	UNPF	7.5	–	7.5	June 2011	–	12
UNMIK	UNMIH	8.5	–	8.5	July 2011	–	11
UNMIK	UNPF	6.0	–	6.0	November 2011	–	7

Loan							
To	*From*	*Amount*	*Amount repaid*	*Closing balance, 30 June 2012*	*Month loaned*	*Month repaid*	*Months outstanding until 30 June 2012*
UNMIK	UNPF	9.0	–	9.0	April 2012	–	2
UNMIT	UNPF	15.0	15.0	–	January 2010	March 2010	2
UNMIT	UNAMIR	10.0	10.0	–	July 2011	September 2011	2
UNMIT	UNAVEM	8.0	8.0	–	July 2011	September 2011	2
UNMIT	UNPF	13.0	13.0	–	February 2012	March 2012	1
UNMIT	UNAVEM	4.0	4.0	–	February 2012	March 2012	1
UNFICYP	UNPF	4.0	4.0	–	December 2010	February 2011	2
UNFICYP	UNAVEM	5.0	5.0	–	August 2011	January/March 2012	7
UNOCI	UNPF	12.0	12.0	–	September 2011	September 2011	–
UNSOA	UNPF	14.0	14.0	–	November 2011	January 2012	2
UNSMIS	UNAVEM	3.0	–	3.0	June 2012	–	–
Total		**217.9**	**166.9**	**51.0**			**197**
Average duration of loans as of 30 June 2012							**5.5**

Abbreviations: MINURCA, United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic; MINURSO, United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara; UNAMIR, United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda; UNAVEM, United Nations Angola Verification Mission; UNFICYP, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; UNMIH, United Nations Mission in Haiti; UNMIK, United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo; UNMIT, United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste; UNOCI, United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire; UNOMIG, United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia; UNPF, United Nations Peace Forces; UNSMIH, United Nations Support Mission in Haiti; UNSMIS, United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic; UNSOA, United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Annex II

Loans, repayments and average level of cross-borrowings by active missions from closed missions for the three-year period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012

(Millions of United States dollars)

Financial year/month	*Loans*	*Repayments*	*Balance*	*Yearly average*
2009/10				
July	–	–	18.0	
August	–	–	18.0	
September	3.0	–	21.0	
October	–	(12.0)	9.0	
November	–	–	9.0	
December	4.5	–	13.5	17.0
January	18.5	–	32.0	
February	4.0	–	36.0	
March	–	(24.0)	12.0	
April	–	–	12.0	
May	–	–	12.0	
June	–	–	12.0	
2010/11				
July	–	–	12.0	
August	6.4	–	18.4	
September	–	(18.4)	–	
October	–	–	–	
November	–	–	–	
December	4.0	–	4.0	13.5
January	3.5	–	7.5	
February	46.5	(41.0)	13.0	
March	–	–	13.0	
April	11.5	–	24.5	
May	4.0	–	28.5	
June	13.0	–	41.5	

Financial year/month	*Loans*	*Repayments*	*Balance*	*Yearly average*
2011/12				
July	34.5	–	76.0	
August	5.0	–	81.0	
September	12.0	(66.0)	27.0	
October	–	(3.0)	24.0	
November	25.0	–	49.0	
December	–	–	49.0	47.5
January	–	(18.0)	31.0	
February	23.5	–	54.5	
March	–	(18.0)	36.5	
April	9.0	–	45.5	
May	–	–	45.5	
June	9.0	(3.5)	51.0	
Average loan level for the three financial years				**26.0**

United Nations A/67/838

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 April 2013

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda items 20 (f) and 75

Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 19 March 2013 from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity addressed to the Secretary-General

At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision XI/17 entitled "Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas", which includes a section entitled "Description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas".

In paragraph 6 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties, noting that, in accordance with decision X/29, the application of the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas is a scientific and technical exercise, and emphasizing that the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as stated in paragraph 26 of decision X/29, requested the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its sixteenth meeting and contained in the annex to the decision, in the repository, as referred to in decision X/29 and the decision, and, for the purpose set out in decision X/29, to submit them to the General Assembly, and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, as well as to submit them to Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations. The Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to submit the summary reports to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, as well as to provide them as a source of information to United Nations specialized agencies.

13-29477 (E) 180413

Please recycle

Pursuant to the above-mentioned requests, I have the honour to inform you that the summary reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, which comprise tables 1 and 2 of the annex to decision XI/17, are available in all six official languages of the United Nations on the website of the Convention at http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-11. The other decisions referred to in decision XI/17 are also available on the website.

(*Signed*) Braulio **Ferreira de Souza Dias**
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations A/67/839

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 April 2013
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 45
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 15 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic (see annex) concerning the military exercises, including the launching of missiles from the Malvinas Islands, which the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland plans to conduct from 15 to 26 April 2013. This situation is creating unnecessary and unjustified tension in the South Atlantic, a nuclear-weapon-free zone characterized by its commitment to peace.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) María Cristina **Perceval**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-29540 (E) 230413 230413

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 15 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you concerning the military exercises by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the firing of missiles from the Malvinas Islands, which are scheduled to take place from 15 to 26 April 2013. This situation is creating unnecessary and unjustified tension in the South Atlantic, a nuclear-weapon-free zone characterized by its commitment to peace.

As you are aware, on 14 February 2012, I expressed to you personally, as well as to the President of the United Nations Security Council and the President of the General Assembly, my country's concern over the British militarization of the South Atlantic, which includes the deployment of nuclear submarines with the capacity to transport nuclear weapons. Regrettably, the United Kingdom carried out missile exercises in the Malvinas Islands in June and August 2012. These circumstances were communicated by means of notes dated 7 August 2012 (A/66/884) and 5 October 2012 (S/2012/763).

These exercises form part of a long series of unilateral actions that the United Kingdom has carried out in violation of General Assembly resolution 31/49.

The Naval Hydrographic Service of the Argentine Republic, after assessing the seriousness of the risks to the safety of navigation posed by the British exercises, and in the framework of its duties and responsibilities as coordinator of Navarea VI, the navigation area covering the South-West Atlantic Ocean, immediately issued a radio navigational warning expressly reserving Argentina's sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Argentina considers that this new unilateral British action is inadmissible and merely confirms that the United Kingdom can only justify its illegitimate presence in the South Atlantic through military might, which reflects its contempt for the pronouncements of the international community and, in particular, for the concern expressed in this regard by the entire region through multiple pronouncements of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), as well as the Ibero-American Summit, the South American and Arab Countries Summit and, recently, the Ministerial Meeting of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA), held in Montevideo in January 2013.

These repeated British military exercises in the South Atlantic underscore the urgent need for the United Kingdom to comply with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations and in particular as a permanent member of the Security Council, and to agree to resume the negotiations in order to reach a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Organization on the question of the Malvinas Islands. It is in this context that the mission of good offices entrusted to you by the General Assembly — which Argentina, as you are aware, strongly supports — is particularly relevant.

The Argentine Government protested against the conduct of these military exercises to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, demanding that it refrain from conducting them. Furthermore, this situation has been brought to the attention of the Chair of the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, the presidencies pro tempore of ZPCSA, MERCOSUR and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the General Secretariat of UNASUR. Representatives of the last three regional forums accompanied me to the meeting that I had with you on 26 March 2013, during which they conveyed the support of the countries of the region for the Argentine Republic's legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Argentina once again reiterates its permanent and constant willingness to negotiate, in accordance with United Nations provisions, and requests that this note be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Héctor **Timerman**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship